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How do you tell a parent that, 'Yeah, your son that was killed. ... The mission was worth it?'

David Bellavia, Army veteran



All for nothing?

Ramadi, Fallujah turmoil hits home for Iraq veterans

By JIM MICHAELS AND GREGG ZOROYA
USA Today

For David Bellavia, seeing the images of al-Qaida flags flying over buildings in Fallujah and Ramadi in recent days has been devastating.

"That ground, to me it's hallowed," said Bellavia, who earned a Silver Star for heroism on his 29th birthday fighting in Fallujah as an Army staff sergeant on Nov. 10, 2004.

The images of al-Qaida militants surging back into cities that were secured at an enormous sacrifice has chilled Americans who fought in Iraq. "Most veterans are deeply disappointed that the struggles and the sacrifices they made ... have seemingly been for

naught," said Peter Mansoor, a retired Army officer who served in Iraq as a brigade commander and on the staff of Gen. David Petraeus.

In a remarkable show of strength, al-Qaida militants last week swept into the two key Sunni cities, seizing police stations and government buildings. On Monday, Iraqi government forces and local tribes continued efforts to expel them from the city.

Fallujah and Ramadi, cities in mostly Sunni Anbar province, are more than obscure towns in Iraq's western desert to veterans of the Iraq War. They represent the darkest days of the U.S.-led war and also where the United States began to take the tide.

US lists details on Afghan prisoners

Alleged insurgents' crimes disclosed in effort to stop release

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — As an Afghan prison review board moves forward with a controversial decision to free prisoners accused of attacks on coalition and Afghan troops, the U.S. is disclosing details of some of the detainees' alleged crimes — including the bombing of a school — in an effort to halt the releases.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai initially delayed the releases in the wake of U.S. opposition, but on Sunday, the head of the review board said he still plans to recommend the release of 88 prisoners.

Parwan prison is located at Bagram Air Field, a major hub for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, and it is where coalition and U.S. officials say some of the most hard-core militants are being held. U.S. government and military officials have publicly blasted the review board's plan, saying it reneges on a pledge Karzai made when the U.S. agreed to hand over the prison to Afghan control in March after protracted negotiations that were hung up in part because of U.S. concerns about prisoners being released.

The prison review board ordered the release of 650 detainees from the Parwan, The Associated Press reported last week, and the U.S. says 88 of those are suspected in the death or wounding of 60 coalition forces and 57 Afghan forces. The U.S. wants them to face trial in Afghanistan, the AP reported.

The head of the review board, Abdul Shakoor Dadras, told the Reuters news agency on Sunday that the prisoners would be released immediately due to lack of evidence.

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SEE IRAQ ON PAGE 3

Spc. James Taylor, of Munday, Texas, with the 1st Infantry Division, races toward a house while conducting clearing operations in Fallujah, Iraq, on Nov. 15, 2004. Courtesy of the Ohio Army National Guard

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It was just a game gone wrong. It would be fair to say the gentleman was very embarrassed."

— Police Sgt. Michelle De Araugo, describing the rescue of an Australian man who became stuck in a washing machine while naked

See story on Page 11

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MILITARY

Sailors in Bahrain react to pay cut

Many say security threats warrant designation of 'imminent danger'

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Many sailors in Bahrain are questioning the Defense Department's decision to eliminate imminent danger pay for servicemembers stationed in this island nation, which has the largest security presence of any Navy base.

The Pentagon's move, announced Friday, will mean that servicemembers based here will lose a \$225-per-month pay incentive that has been in effect since 1997.

Naval Support Activity Bahrain, home to the U.S. 5th Fleet, has the biggest Navy security presence of any base in the Navy, according to base officials. Roughly 700 of the approximately 3,000 sailors in Bahrain are security personnel, making it the largest unit on base.

They're charged with protecting the base and the piers where U.S. warships port.

Many of the sailors interviewed asked that if there is no imminent danger, why does the base still have that level of security presence, and why do so many areas of Bahrain remain off limits?

The tiny kingdom has been the site of sporadic protests since 2011, when authorities crushed a popular uprising dominated by the Shiite Muslim majority which is demanding political and economic reforms from the Sunni Muslim political establishment. Human rights groups say at least 89 people have died in the unrest.

In November, Bahraini authorities arrested two former Guantanamo Bay detainees at the causeway linking the tiny island nation to Saudi Arabia. Both were carrying forged passports and a large amount of money, according to officials who suspected they were plotting a terrorist attack.



HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

A Command Riverine Boat from Coastal Riverine Squadron Four makes its way to a safe location in the Persian Gulf for a weapons exercise in October. The Persian Gulf is one of several places where troops will no longer receive imminent danger pay thanks to a recent decision by the Defense Department.

U.S. personnel here receive regular force protection alerts via email and text messages warning of potentially violent protests where Molotov cocktails and improvised explosive devices may be used.

Nonetheless some personnel assert that Bahrain is safer than most major American cities, with the majority of personnel living off base, eating out and visiting shopping malls. Despite the frequent protests, there have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens to date, according to the U.S. Embassy.

Some of the servicemembers interviewed said that leaves them feeling guilty they get paid the same amount of imminent danger pay as troops serving in Afghanistan.

Bahrain's government welcomed the DOD decision as a positive step.

"We look forward to bolstering our cooperation with the U.S. 5th Fleet," the Information Affairs Authority said in a statement to Stars and Stripes. "This news is not surprising as Bahrain and the other GCC countries have been a beacon of stability in a volatile region."

While the level of danger is a frequent topic of conversation

among servicemembers, sailors almost unanimously concur that the allowance, amounting to an extra \$2,700 a year, acts as an incentive to come to a desert island in the Persian Gulf.

"I could have taken orders anywhere, but the reason I came here was the cash," said Lt. Cmdr. Dean Liner who arrived in Bahrain last week. "What about my sailors? If it's an incentive enough for a lieutenant commander, how much more of an incentive is it for junior sailors?"

"I picked orders to come here," Petty Officer 3rd Class Blake Contini said, explaining that the extra money was a major factor in that decision. "Back in the States I was making \$850 per paycheck ... here, \$1,300," when factoring tax free status and other allowances.

He said he uses the monthly \$225 imminent danger pay to pay for college loans.

Other junior sailors interviewed by Stars and Stripes also claimed the extra money was a key factor in enticing them to volunteer for duty in Bahrain.

Lt. Cmdr. Jamie Stall-Ryan, a Navy chaplain who recently served a yearlong tour in Bahrain while his wife and two young sons stayed at his previous duty station in Annapolis, Md., said it was his

sense too, that the pay "had a lot to do with getting people to take the assignment."

"Extra money in the pocket seemed to be the attraction for many. However, with that being said, I did not see it as a safe place for my family," said Stall-Ryan. "Too many riots and protests ... I chose to leave them behind and it was a very smart move on our part."

The Navy's top brass also has backed keeping the extra pay.

During his visit to Bahrain in November, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert said he didn't support removing the danger pay incentive.

"The danger could go away but the quality is still not there," he said.

Some of the servicemembers interviewed pointed to the lack of a commissary on the base and the resulting expensive grocery bills as evidence for the need of an extra cash incentive. To offset some of this concern the DOD also announced the establishment of a \$50 monthly hardship duty pay for servicemembers in Bahrain starting June 1 — the same day imminent danger pay ends.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jennifer Hlad contributed to this report. simoes.hendrick@stripes.com
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STARS AND STRIPES

MIDEAST

Iraq: Airstrike in Ramadi kills 25 al-Qaida fighters

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi government airstrike killed 25 al-Qaida-linked militants and fierce clashes broke out west of Baghdad on Tuesday, Iraqi officials said.

Iraqi forces and fighters from government-allied Sunni tribes have been battling militants to recapture two key cities Fallujah and Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province. The al-Qaida gains in Anbar — once bloody battlegrounds for U.S. troops — pose the most serious challenge to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite-led government since the departure of American forces in late 2011.

Iraqi military spokesman Gen. Mohammed al-Askari said the Iraqi air force struck an operations center for the militants on the outskirts of Ramadi, killing 25 fighters who were holed up inside.

He didn't give more details about how the death toll was confirmed but cited intelligence reports.

The airstrike came after clashes erupted about 12 miles west of Fallujah following the capture of an army officer and four soldiers in the area a day earlier, said provincial spokesman Dhari al-Rishawi.

There was no immediate word on casualties for those clashes.

Fighters from an al-Qaida-linked group known as the Islamic

State in Iraq and the Levant seized control of the center of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, and part of the nearby Ramadi last week.

Al-Maliki's government has vowed to rout the militants, calling on Fallujah residents Monday to expel the al-Qaida fighters to avoid an all-out battle.

Iraq's Cabinet met Tuesday to discuss the situation in Anbar and called for the mobilization of all efforts "to support the army and security services in expelling terrorists," according to a government statement.

Military operations would continue, the Cabinet statement added, until Iraq is "cleansed" of terrorism.

Fallujah residents have been streaming out of the city in recent days, fearing an impending assault on the city, according to witnesses.

A medical official in Fallujah said two civilians were killed and five were wounded, including two children, when they were caught Tuesday in an exchange of fire between militants and an Iraqi army troops south of the city as they were trying to flee. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to release information.

The immediate trigger for the unrest was the Dec. 28 arrest of a Sunni lawmaker sought on



AP photos

Above: Gunmen gather in a street as they chant slogans against Iraq's Shiite-led government and demand that the Iraqi army not try to enter the city of Fallujah on Tuesday.
Below: An Iraqi soldier and a journalist donate blood for victims of military operations in Anbar Province.

terrorism charges, followed by the government's dismantling of a months-old anti-government Sunni protest camp in Ramadi.

Sectarian tensions in Iraq have been rising for much longer as Sunni complaints grew that the government was targeting the minority community unfairly with what they alleged were random arrests on terrorism charges and discrimination.

It was a U.S.-backed revolt by Sunni tribal leaders against al-Qaida that led to a decline in the sectarian violence that followed the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein, and the current unrest has raised fears the country was again being pushed to the brink of civil war.



Iraq: Some regret Fallujah setback while others see it as Iraqis' battle now

FROM FRONT PAGE

More Americans died in Anbar than any other province.

Fallujah became a symbol of al-Qaida resistance in 2004, leading to a bloody U.S. Marine-led offensive that drove militants out of the city after intense street fighting. More than 80 Americans were killed in combat during the second battle of Fallujah in November and December 2004.

"How do you tell a parent that, 'Yeah, your son that was killed. ... The mission was worth it?' " Belavia asked.

"My heart is aching right now," said Jeremiah Workman, who received the second-highest valor award, the Navy Cross, for repeatedly entering a house full of dozens of insurgents in Fallujah to recover the bodies of slain Marines. "I think of those Marines and sailors and soldiers that were there and that were lost and that were hurt."

Workman, who left the Marine Corps with a medical retirement after developing post-traumatic

stress disorder, said he has been flooded with calls, texts and emails from people concerned about him since the news from Iraq.

In Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, U.S. officers supported Sunni tribal sheiks in a risky gambit that helped turn one of the most violent Iraqi cities into one that was among the most secure. The 2006 tribal revolt, called the Awakening, spread beyond Ramadi and helped turn the tide of war.

Today many of those same tribal leaders are under attack by al-Qaida and are leading the fight to push militants out of Anbar. American officers forged close bonds with tribal sheiks, fighting together to take back Ramadi one block at a time.

"The Anbari leaders that are fighting against al-Qaida today are actually friends of ours," said Marc Chretien, a former State Department official who worked with the tribes in Anbar province for several years.

Simmering tensions

The recent violence is the result of tensions that have been simmering for years. The civil war in neighboring Syria has attracted foreign fighters and strengthened al-Qaida in the region. The main roads between Syria and Baghdad run through Anbar.

Sunnis in Iraq, meanwhile, have grown increasingly frustrated with the Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad. Al-Qaida, a Sunni terrorist organization, has attempted to capitalize on those frustrations.

Some veterans believe the United States did everything in its power to stabilize Iraq before pulling out in 2011.

"In Iraq, one of many things that was for was to bring stability to a region and give the country of Iraq an opportunity to gain freedom and pursue a democratic government," said Marine Sgt. Maj. Bradley Kasal, who received the Navy Cross for heroism in Fallujah. "And now it's up to them

(the Iraqis) to want it bad enough to take what we started and continue to the finish line."

Others blame the Obama administration for not working harder to reach an agreement that would allow U.S. troops to remain beyond 2011.

The administration said it could not win an agreement from the Iraqi government to provide needed legal protections for U.S. troops after 2011.

U.S. forces were seen by Sunnis as an independent institution that would protect them from the excesses of a Shiite-dominated government and would act as a peacekeeping force until a broader reconciliation was achieved.

"When you pulled American forces out of there, you lost that glue that was holding things together," said Mansoor, the retired officer.

"What we have here is a failure of the political leadership to follow up on the hard-won military gains," said V.J. Tedesco, a retired Army officer who served

as a battalion commander in Ramadi in 2006.

"We've allowed the Shiite-dominated government to act in a way that's prejudicial to minorities, including Sunnis," he said. "On a personal level, that's frustrating."

No US troops

The Obama administration has said it will support the country but not send troops.

"This is a fight that belongs to the Iraqis," Secretary of State John Kerry said.

What haunts many Anbar veterans is a feeling that America abandoned those tribal leaders and sheiks who helped them battle al-Qaida when the war looked nearly hopeless.

"To find them with their backs against the wall and abandoned to their fate just compounds the tragedy," Chretien said.

PACIFIC



EDDIE SIGUENZA/Courtesy of the U.S. Army National Guard

Sgt. 1st Class Frank Lintiacho, left, with 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, celebrates his unit's departure from Afghanistan on Dec. 28.

Task Force Guam redeploys

Guard unit returning to island after historic Afghan mission

By ALEX PRINSA
Stars and Stripes

As Christmas bells rang and New Year's champagne was poured across the small island and U.S. territory of Guam, family members of Task Force Guam soldiers celebrated a little easier knowing their loved ones were packing their duffel bags in Afghanistan for the return trip home.

Redeployment for Task Force Guam's 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, began in mid-December, marking the end of the largest deployment for the National Guard unit, which has been in existence since only 1981. The Guam National Guard has about 1,300 soldiers, and nearly half were deployed overseas for the past nine months. The guard unit is set to be fully redeployed back to the island by mid-January.

"Everyone is in good spirits because we executed a successful mission," said Capt. Gordon Guerrero, public affairs officer and security officer for Task Force Guam.

The task force, which had units dispersed strategically throughout all regional commands, performed a variety of tasks while in Afghanistan. They conducted security escort missions in Kabul, as well as "guardian angel" missions for high-level commanders meeting with Afghan security forces. As 2014 approached and NATO units prepared to hand off responsibility to the Afghan army and police, the Guam guard played an important role in securing the country's capital.

With so much time spent "outside the wire," contact with insurgents came early. In May, just one month into the start of their deployment, the unit lost two soldiers in a car bomb attack outside

their base in Kabul. Spc. Dwayne Flores, 22, and Sgt. Eugene Agon, 23, were killed in the attack. The deaths were big news in Guam.

"Of course we still think of our brothers that we lost. They'll always be with us, and will always be on our minds," Guerrero said.

Because the island is such a tight-knit place, the troops can expect the warmest of welcomes home, Guerrero said.

"Guam's a very small community, so everybody felt our absence, so when we return, we're going to feel whole again," he said. "Everybody is going to be with family and friends, and our little community will feel like one whole family again."

The soldiers will all make their way through Kyrgyzstan to the United States for demobilization, and then to Guam.

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Command master chief of USS Germantown accused of sex assault

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The top enlisted sailor aboard the USS Germantown has been temporarily relieved following allegations of sexual assault made by a crewmember, Navy officials said Tuesday.

Command Master Chief Petty Officer Jesus Galura has been reassigned to Amphibious Squadron 11 headquarters at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, while officials conduct an investigation.

After "careful consideration," squadron commodore Capt. Heidi Agle decided an ongoing investigation would affect Galura's ability to do his job "and would be an unnecessary distraction to the command mission," according to a command statement.

Navy officials did not provide further details on the accusation, citing the ongoing investigation.

Galura has served as Germantown's command master chief since August 2011.

Galura joined the Navy in 1989 at Naval Station Subic Bay, Philippines. He has also served aboard the USS Essex and USS San Bernardino during previous tours in Sasebo.

Command Master Chief Jeffrey Steiny has transferred from U.S. Pacific Fleet headquarters to assume Galura's duties aboard the ship.

Galura's dismissal comes less than six months after a USS Germantown chief petty officer was convicted by a court-martial jury of sexually assaulting a sailor he once mentored.

Sexual assault in the military has drawn increasing scrutiny from Congress and the public

during the past year, leading the services to re-examine how they address the crime.

In early November, the Pentagon announced a 46 percent rise in sexual assault reports between October 2012 and June 2013, compared with a year earlier. Officials said the added reports reflect progress, since Defense

Galura's dismissal comes less than six months after a USS Germantown chief petty officer was convicted of sexually assaulting a sailor.

Department and several civilian studies indicate that sexual assault is vastly underreported.

Although there were 3,374 accusations of sexual assault in 2012, a DOD survey determined through statistical extrapolation

that there could be as many as 26,000 sexual assaults per year.

The Navy now issues weekly sexual assault reports on its navy.mil website.

The service has also formed a new legal team to represent accusers of sexual assault. Supporters of the new Navy legal team say it provides victims with support beyond that of the prosecution, which tries cases on behalf of the government.

Some legal analysts and defense attorneys argue that the additional counsel puts the accused at a disadvantage.

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S. Korea: US infantry battalion headed to DMZ in rotational deployment

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A U.S. cavalry battalion will soon deploy near the Demilitarized Zone to beef up defensive capabilities in South Korea and increase the long-term force presence there, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

About 800 soldiers from the Army's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, will

deploy Feb. 1 with wheeled and tracked vehicles to Camps Hovey and Stanley, officials said.

The equipment, including about 40 M1A2 Abrams tanks and 40 M2A3 Bradley fighting vehicles, will remain in Korea for the next rotation of troops after current troops finish their 9-month deployment. As a result, the U.S. troop presence of 28,500 is expected to increase to about 29,300.

"This plus-up is part of the rebalance" of U.S. military and diplomatic presence in the Pacific

region, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steven Warren said Tuesday. "It's been long-planned, it's part of our enduring commitment to security on the Korean peninsula. This gives the commanders in Korea an additional capability — two companies of tanks, two companies of Bradleys."

Prior to the Pentagon announcement, a spokesman for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense had said a mechanized infantry unit would depart the United States on Thursday

and remain in northern Gyeonggi province with the 2nd Infantry Division for nine months, he said.

A second MND spokesman said the move was not due to concerns about instability in North Korea following last month's execution of Jang Song-thaek, uncle and close adviser to young leader Kim Jong Un. The execution has heightened speculation that the North, which held its third nuclear test last year and followed it with a period of intensified threats of war, may soon conduct another provocation

to solidify Kim's power.

The U.S. military's use of rotational forces in South Korea appears to be increasing. Last September, it announced plans for a nine-month rotational deployment of the 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to Camp Humphreys. The air reconnaissance squadron includes about 380 soldiers and 30 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters.

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BRUCE SMITH/AP

Lou Mascherino and his wife, Rhonda, have operated the Veterans Cafe and Grille in Myrtle Beach, S.C., for four years.

Myrtle Beach cafe a haven for veterans

By BRUCE SMITH
The Associated Press

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — There's a red, white and blue sign in the window of the Veteran's Cafe and Grille that says simply "Welcome Home."

In the four years that Lou Mascherino and his wife, Rhonda, have operated the cafe it has indeed become a home of sorts for vets — a combination diner, military museum and hangout for those who have served America.

The walls and ceiling are crowded with hundreds of items, from photos and uniforms to military patches and flags.

And, if a veteran can't afford a meal, well, they eat for free.

"That's part of our thing. We won't ever let a veteran go hungry," said Mascherino, who served in the Army for three years in the 1970s.

The cafe opened on Veteran's Day in 2009 at another location nearby in this tourist resort.

A short time later, Rhonda Mascherino put an item on the back of the menu suggesting that people bring in 5-by-7 family photos of those in the military. It started as a trickle, but then over the months and years people began almost daily dropping off items from their closets and attics.

"Almost every day we get something in. People come in and say, 'I've got my grandfather's uniform from World War II or I've got his picture,'" said Lou Mascherino — nicknamed Mash.

The cafe opened when the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center, a local non-profit that helps vets tap into government and other resources, thought a small cafe might be a good fundraising tool.

That idea really didn't work out, but Lou Mascherino, who has worked for decades in the local dining industry, decided he wanted to go out on his own and said he would take on operating the cafe.

It was touch and go for a while but now the cafe has found its niche, moving earlier this year into larger quarters.

'If we get a vet walking in here and needs help, everybody helps.'

Kris Tourtellotte
veterans resource center

get a lot of vets who come in here and they will just sit around and talk."

The cafe works closely with the Welcome Home and Resource Center as well as other veterans' organizations.

"If a veteran comes in here, Mash will call and the first thing we find out is what their needs are," said Kris Tourtellotte, who founded the Resource Center based in nearby Little River, S.C. "If we get a vet walking in here and needs help, everybody helps."

The Veterans Cafe also helps the center and other veterans' groups stage cookouts and other fundraisers.

Lou Mascherino says he has found his calling in cooking and helping those who served. He knows he won't get rich running the cafe where he works 10-hour days six days a week and comes in on a seventh, Sundays, to clean.

"I know the restaurant business in Myrtle Beach and I know a mom and pop isn't going to make a lot of money," he said. "As long as we can keep a roof over our head and food on the table at home, that's all I care about."

At 61, he can't see himself doing anything else. "I wouldn't know what to do. I'm here for life," he said.

Lawmakers seek probe into housing allowances

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Members of the House Armed Services Committee are calling on the government's investigative arm to assess the Defense Department's policies on overseas housing allowances and to determine whether those policies are in line with overarching U.S. government regulations.

In a Dec. 17 letter to the head of the Government Accountability Office, Rep. Robert Wittman, R-Va., and Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, D-Guam, asked investigators to examine a Defense Department decision that rendered hundreds of overseas workers ineligible for housing allowances and indebted for past payments received.

"Given the current impact on more than 700 individuals and their families, and approaching deadlines for repayment of LQA (living quarters allowance) under new DOD guidance, we would ask that you expedite this review if at all possible," the lawmakers wrote in a letter to GAO chief Gene Dodaro.

Last year, the DOD determined that roughly 700 overseas workers were receiving the allowance "erroneously."

In May, affected employees were informed that they would

Last year, the DOD determined that roughly 700 overseas workers were receiving a living quarters allowance erroneously.

lose their housing benefits and would be required to repay the government for previous payments unless a special debt waiver was received.

The DOD granted a one-year extension of the allowance, which is set to expire in May.

At issue are conflicting opinions over whether State Department regulations allow certain locally hired workers to receive the benefit.

In the meantime, many overseas workers have been calling on Congress to intervene with legislation that would restore the allowance and eliminate their debts across the board.

In their letter calling for a GAO review, the lawmakers say they want the office to examine the ways in which DOD's interpretation of eligibility regulations differs from State Department rules governing overseas housing allowances.

The letter refers to a 2-year-old U.S. Court of Federal Claims case in which the judge sided with an

Italy-based Defense Department civilian who sued the department in connection with allegations he was wrongly denied housing benefits.

In awarding a summary judgment to the employee, the judge said the DOD's implementation of housing allowance policies was in conflict with the overarching State Department Standardized Regulation, which would have authorized the allowance.

Now, lawmakers are asking the GAO to examine how the DOD has modified its policies in light of recent court decisions and to determine how many employees would be affected by any policy change.

Affected overseas workers have argued that the 2011 housing allowance case — *Thomas v. the United States* — offers the legal rationale for restoring their own benefits.

The DOD has appealed the Federal Claims Court ruling.

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SCAN WITH PHONE

MILITARY

Prisoners: Issue has worsened strained relations

FROM FRONT PAGE

The prisoners were all detained by U.S. or foreign troops with the NATO-led alliance, but were to be prosecuted in Afghan courts.

In a telephone interview Tuesday with Stars and Stripes, Dadras said the board had reviewed all the cases, but that the board's work is not finished.

"Those people are not released yet, and we will review their cases again and again," he said. "If there is any evidence or information found against any of them, they will get prosecuted."

Dadras called on U.S. and Afghan investigators to come forward with more evidence if they want the detainees to remain in prison.

"If they are caught with guns or suspicious items or they have broken the law and created violence, then they must get sentenced, but we need strong evidence for that," he said.

In response to a Stars and Stripes request, a U.S. official with access to the prisoner list agreed — on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the information — to name some of the detainees set to be released from Parwan prison and the crimes U.S. investigators allege they have committed.

■ **Salam Khan Balach** was captured after being observed placing bombs with three insurgents. Balach's fingerprints also matched those found on the remains of a bomb that killed two Afghan soldiers and wounded two others in Kandahar province, and DNA evidence linked him to another deadly bombing, according to the official.

■ **Nurullah**, who goes by one name, is an alleged Taliban commander involved in attacks in Logar province, especially in the volatile district of Baraki Barak. One suicide bombing he is accused of being involved with killed an American servicemember and wounded four others. According to the U.S. official, when Nurullah was captured he was in possession of a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, a rifle, a shotgun, a grenade, a 60 mm mortar tube and tripod, as well as military-grade explosives and military uniforms. He also tested positive for the explosive TNT.

■ **Rahman Gul** is accused of being a commander and financial facilitator for the Haqqani network, an insurgent group, and coordinating insurgent opera-



HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

A prisoner is released from Parwan prison at Bagram Air Field in 2013. A plan by Afghan President Hamid Karzai to release 88 detainees, many accused of carrying out attacks on coalition and Afghan forces, has angered the United States.

‘If the government and especially the president, who is merciful, wants to release these guys, he should provide a very strong guarantee that they do not go back to fight.’

Atta Mohammad Ahmadi
provincial High Peace Council Office for Kandahar province

tions in Khost province against Afghan and coalition forces, including the use of 14-year-old suicide bombers on multiple occasions.

■ **Saifullah**, who goes by one name, is accused of being a Taliban operative who conducted attacks against Afghan and coalition forces in Paktiya province, including an ambush that resulted in two Afghan National Police officers being killed. He

is also accused of placing a bomb at a school that killed one student and wounded four others.

One of the key stipulations of the agreement to hand over Parwan prison from U.S. to Afghan control was that dangerous prisoners would not be released without going to trial, an agreement U.S. officials say is being ignored.

Now the issue of the prisoner release has worsened already

strained relations between Washington and Kabul, which have been squabbling over the details of a security agreement that would pave the way for a small residual force of foreign troops to stay in Afghanistan after the end of 2014.

"We continue to strongly oppose release of these 88 detainees without processing through the Afghan justice system," a U.S. military official said in a written response to Stars and Stripes questions.

"Release of these individuals by the Afghan Review Board undermines Afghan rule of law," the official wrote on condition of anonymity. "Based on the evidence and the risk these individuals pose to the peace and security of the Afghan people, and in accordance with Afghan law, their cases should be addressed by the formal Afghan justice system."

Some Afghan officials, too,

have expressed concern about the prisoner release.

Atta Mohammad Ahmadi, head of the provincial High Peace Council Office for Kandahar province, oversees efforts to re-integrate Taliban fighters in Kandahar and said the government needs to be cautious about whom it releases.

He was concerned about Balach, one of the alleged insurgents of concern to the U.S., who was detained in Kandahar province.

"If he was involved in that (alleged crimes), he is a criminal and should be punished," Ahmadi said. "But if the government and especially the president, who is merciful, wants to release these guys, he should provide a very strong guarantee that they do not go back to fight."

Zubair Babakarkhali contributed to this report.

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Taliban deny sending girl to attack police

KABUL — The Taliban denied Tuesday that they sent a 10-year-old girl to stage a suicide attack against Afghan police after the girl claimed her brother, who was identified as a Taliban commander, had warned her in an explosives-packed vest.

Border police in southern

Helmand province arrested the girl's father and were searching for the brother, named Zahir, who had escaped with the suicide vest, a commander said.

The girl, who identified herself only as Spozhmai, told police her brother told her to approach a checkpoint in southern Helmand province and ask the deputy commander for a ride with him to neighboring Kunar province.

"I said I won't go, then he took

off the vest and tried to convince me that they (police) will die and I will remain alive," Spozhmai said.

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry announced the girl's detention in a statement Monday, describing her brother as a "Taliban commander." Taliban spokesman Qari Yusef Ahmadi denied any involvement in the case.

From The Associated Press

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NATION

Amid brutal temps, it's just another day in Minn.

By LENNY BERNSTEIN
AND BRADY DENNIS
The Washington Post

MINNETONKA, Minn. — The sun was setting, the sky a pale blue. The temperature had warmed to 14 below zero, and a stiff wind was blowing snow around vast Lake Minnetonka — its surface a thick, hard layer of ice — pushing the wind chill ever lower.

It was clearly time to go fishing.

"If you're a sportsman," said Steve Kniss, a police sergeant who was planning to be out on the lake late Monday night, "it's an opportunity to continue your fishing into the winter. And the winters are cold and long.

"Life is good inside that little castle," he said.

With just about everyone else indoors in one of the coldest spots in the United States, on one of the coldest days in two decades, the outdoors belonged Monday to the hardest of the hardy — ice fishermen and police officers, firefighters and other first responders. Over the years, they have adapted to this kind of weather.

Adaptation takes many forms. For college students Cody Pribble and Mitch Simon, it meant sitting inside Pribble's new \$11,500 ice house, nicely heated by propane, watching television and drinking beer as they fished through two of the four holes in the rubber-matted floor.

Jim Flanders, assistant chief of the city's fire department, was not quite as lucky. Responding to a broken pipe at a home he was hit with a geyser of freezing water that soaked him and another firefighter when they opened the outdoor closet containing the sprinkler main. Water poured from the home's garage and ran into the basement, heavily flooding the carpeted room.

"We take the usual precautions," dressing in multiple layers, Flanders said when asked how he prepared for wet duty on such a cold day. "And we just adapt."



THE MANNATO (MINN.) FREE PRESS/AP

Mail carrier Dan Dorn is bundled up as he makes his appointed rounds in sub-zero temperatures Monday in New Ulm, Minn.



LELALAN BUEHREN/Courtesy of the U.S. Air National Guard

An engineer with the 182nd Civil Engineer Squadron plows snow during bitter cold conditions at the Illinois Air National Guard Base in Peoria on Monday. In Effingham, Ill., the guard helped clear a highway where several semis jack-knifed in the snow Sunday night

Cold moves east as Midwest recovers

By RAY HENRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Brutal, life-threatening cold descended over the East and the South, sending the mercury plummeting Tuesday into the single digits and teens from New York and Washington to Atlanta, Nashville and Birmingham — where many people have little experience dealing with freezing weather.

The morning weather map for the eastern half of the U.S. looked like an algebra worksheet — lots of small, negative numbers. In fact, the Midwest and the East were colder than much of Antarctica.

Georgia, where the temperature dropped into the single digits, was colder than many cities in Alaska. While Kodiak and Juneau registered 39 and Anchorage was at 27, Atlanta dipped to 6 degrees early in the morning, or nearly 30 degrees below the average low this time of year.

"This is severely cold for these parts," said Brian Lynn, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Peachtree City, Ga. "Single digits are a rare event."

Farthersouth in Pensacola, Fla., a Gulf Coast city better known for its white sand beaches than frost, streets normally filled with joggers, bikers and people walking dogs were deserted early Tuesday as temperatures remained in the teens after sunrise.

In the East, a blizzard smothered western New York with up to 18 inches of snow and wind gusts of up to 50 mph. As much as 3 feet of snow could fall there by the time the storm eases Wednesday.

Temperatures in parts of West Virginia hit lows not seen for 25 years, while the extreme cold in Virginia broke records that had stood since the late 1950s. The National Weather Service said the mercury bottomed out at 3 degrees before sunrise at Baltimore-Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport, with a wind chill of minus 16.

Forecasters said some 187 mil-

lion people in all could feel the effects of the "polar vortex" by the time it spread across the country. PJM Interconnection, which operates the power grid supplying energy to more than 61 million people in the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and South, asked users to conserve electricity because of the cold, especially in the morning and late afternoon.

Meanwhile, recovery was the focus in several Midwestern states. The subzero cold followed inches of snow and high winds that made traveling treacherous and was blamed for numerous deaths in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence issued disaster declarations, a first step toward seeking federal aid.

Late Sunday night in Illinois, six semis and about 375 vehicles became stuck along a snowy stretch around Effingham.

Jonathon Monken, director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, said a few semis jackknifed near the intersections of interstates 57 and 70, setting off a nasty chain reaction.

Snow drifts as high as 8 feet piled up against the semis, preventing cars from getting through. Those cars then became covered by snow drifts.

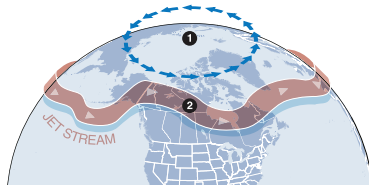
Monken said a special 10-ton National Guard vehicle called a "wrecker" had to be used to move the semis.

He said it took more than 100 emergency personnel about six hours to clear the area.

What is a polar vortex and how did it get here?

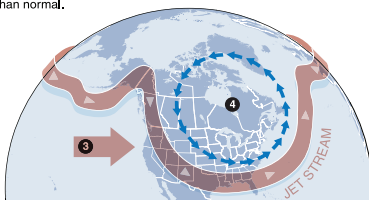
1 The polar vortex that is chilling us this week is a band of low pressure Arctic air normally centered around the North Pole.

2 It is usually held in place by the jet stream, a river of wind 15,000 to 20,000 feet above the Earth that divides cold air from warm air, bending around high- and low-pressure weather systems.



3 This week, a high-pressure system nosed in from western Canada and pushed the jet stream, and a portion of the polar vortex, much farther south than normal.

4 That brought the center of the vortex well into North America and caused temperatures in the Midwest and eastern United States to dive below zero.



SOURCES: Jason Samenow of Capital Weather Gang; meteorologist Brian Lasora of the National Weather Service; NOAA THE WASHINGTON POST

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NATION

Senate advances jobless aid bill

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Legislation to renew jobless benefits for America's long-term unemployed has cleared an initial Senate hurdle, but the fate of a bill that is one of President Barack Obama's top priorities remains in doubt.

Estimates vary, but the Veterans Administration and Labor Department say that 100,000 veterans are jobless.

The vote Tuesday was 60-37 to limit debate on the legislation. Republicans said they would try to change the measure so the \$6.4 billion cost would not add to deficits — a step that Democrats have so far rejected.

As the 2014 midterm election year begins, the White House has made it a major issue to renew the jobless benefits that lapsed last month for an estimated 1.3 million people.

"We've got to make sure that this (economic) recovery leaves nobody behind," Obama said at a White House event shortly after the vote. He has said the extension of



Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., react after legislation to renew jobless benefits cleared an initial Senate hurdle on Tuesday.

benefits should be the "first order of business in 2014."

The three-month extension of benefits is part of a Democratic program ahead of the November election in which control of Congress is at stake.

Other issues for Democrats include raising the minimum wage, closing tax loopholes on the wealthy and corporations, and enacting other measures designed to demonstrate sympathy with those who suffered during the worst recession in decades.

As drafted, the bill would restore between 14 weeks and 47 weeks of benefits averaging \$256 weekly.

Without action by Congress, thousands more each week would feel the impact as their state-funded benefits expire, gener-

ally after 26 weeks.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., said many affected are middle-class, middle-aged people who never thought they would wind up in the situation of long-term unemployment.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he and his rank and file would seek changes so the bill's \$6.4 billion cost would not add to deficits. Senate Democrats have so far rejected the approach, but shortly after the Senate vote, House Speaker John Boehner endorsed it.

Among the GOP proposals is a suspension in the requirement to purchase health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, a change that would potentially save billions of dollars in annual subsidies to the lower-income.

Lawmakers on verge of budget pact

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After weeks of secretive work, senior lawmakers on Capitol Hill are trying to put the finishing touches on a \$1.1 trillion spending bill that would lay to rest last year's budget talks. The goal is to finish writing the mammoth measure this week in anticipation of House and Senate votes before a Jan. 15 deadline to avert another government shutdown. The bill fills in thousands of details across the approximately one-third of the federal budget devoted to the day-to-day operations of federal agencies.

It follows up on the budget pact negotiated by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray, D-Wash., as the anticlimax to a 16-day partial government shutdown in October. A fresh battle over increasing the so-called debt limit looms next month, however, even as the threat of a second government shutdown fades.

The budget deal, which easily passed the House and Senate last month, traded longer-term spending cuts and some fee increases for short-term relief from last year's automatic spending cuts.

The measure includes everything from fighting the spread of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes, ordering new F-35 fighter planes and funding health research to fighting wildfires, sending aid to Israel and Egypt, and helping local governments build sewer systems. The spending is allocated line by line. Appropriations committee aides worked pretty much nonstop over the Christmas-New Year's holiday break putting it all together.

Even by the opaque standards of the appropriators, the numbers crunching the past three weeks has been remarkably secretive. The negotiations promise to produce a foot-tall omnibus spending measure for the 2014 budget year that began in October that'll total about \$1.1 trillion after \$86 billion or so in war funding is tacked on to \$1.012 trillion for core agency operations.

That's \$25 billion above fiscal 2013, when automatic spending cuts known as sequestration slashed \$64 billion from a massive appropriations bill that passed in March. But it is \$45 billion higher than what would have been available had the budget talks fallen apart and forced a second full year of sequestration.

Supporters of the military, meanwhile, are grateful for relief from another \$20 billion round of automatic cuts in defense spending. The Pentagon's core budget will remain essentially flat at \$520 billion.



Murray

New Fed leader faces changed landscape

By ALAN FRAM
AND MARTIN CRUTSINGER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Janet Yellen will take the helm of a U.S. Federal Reserve facing a significantly different economic landscape than the one that dominated Ben Bernanke's tenure as chairman, confronting her with different decisions as well.

Bernanke's eight years leading the central bank were largely consumed with the Great Recession and his efforts to cure it by pushing down interest rates and pumping cash into the economy. Many economists think Yellen's big challenge will be deciding how to ease off some of those very policies, which Bernanke took with Yellen's support.

"Circumstances may demand more rapid tightening than people are expecting," said Bill Cheney, chief economist for John Han-



Yellen

cock Financial Services, who envisions a growing economy this year. He contrasted that with Bernanke, who he said had to decide "when to step on the gas pedal and how hard" as the economy recovered weakly from the recession.

The Senate confirmed Yellen, a long-time Fed official and economist at the University of California at Berkeley, by a 56-26 vote Monday. Supporting her were all 45 voting Democrats and 11 Republicans, while all opposing votes came from Republicans. Many senators missed the vote because frigid weather canceled numerous airline flights.

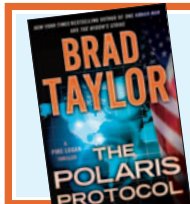
Yellen begins her four-year term Feb. 1,

when Bernanke steps down. She has been Fed vice chair since 2010.

Yellen comes to the post after a career in which she has focused in part on unemployment and its causes. Obama and congressional Democrats lauded her concerns for workers Monday.

In a written statement, President Barack Obama said Yellen's approval means "the American people will have a fierce champion who understands that the ultimate goal of economic and financial policymaking is to improve the lives, jobs and standard of living of American workers and their families."

Many Republicans were less enthusiastic. Sen. Charles Grassley warned that a continuation of the Fed's easy money policies "risks fueling an economic bubble and even hyper-inflation," which he said could cause "real and lasting damage to our economy."



Logan and Cabill uncover a plot far more insidious than drug trafficking—the cartel has discovered a GPS hack with the power to debilitate the United States by making it possible to manipulate everything from traffic signals and banking wire transfers to cruise missiles.

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NATION

Federal judge: Chicago's gun ban unconstitutional

By HERBERT G. MCCANN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A federal judge has potentially opened a new market to gun dealers after ruling as unconstitutional Chicago ordinances that aim to reduce gun violence by banning their sale within city limits.

U.S. District Judge Edmond E. Chang said Monday that while the government has a duty to protect its citizens, it's also obligated to protect constitutional rights, including the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. However, Chang said he would temporarily stay the effects of his ruling, meaning the ordinances can stand while the city decides whether to appeal.

The decision is just the latest to attack

what were some of the toughest gun-control laws in the nation. In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Chicago's long-standing gun ban. Last year, Illinois legislators were forced by a federal appeals court to adopt a law allowing residents to carry concealed weapons; it was the only state that still banned the practice. The resulting law largely stripped officials in the city and surrounding Cook County of their authority to regulate guns, which especially irked officials in Chicago, where residents had to apply for concealed-carry permits through the police superintendent.

National Rifle Association lobbyist Todd Vandermere applauded Chang's decision, saying it "shows how out of step and out-rageous Chicago's ordinances really are."

Roderick Drew, a spokesman for Chicago's law department, said Mayor Rahm Emanuel disagrees with Chang's ruling and has instructed the city's lawyer to consider options to regulate gun sales.

"Every year Chicago police recover more illegal guns than officers in any city in the country, a factor of lax federal laws as well as lax laws in Illinois and surrounding states related to straw purchasing and the transfer of guns," Drew said. "We need stronger gun safety laws, not increased access to firearms within the city."

Chang's ruling came in a lawsuit filed by the Illinois Association of Firearms Retailers and three Chicago residents. The judge noted Chicago's ban covers not only federally licensed firearms dealers, but also

gifts among family members.

In his 35-page opinion, Chang said he understood Chicago enacted the gun sale ban to safeguard its residents.

"That is one of the fundamental duties of government: to protect its citizens," he wrote. "But on the other side of this case is another feature of government: certain fundamental rights are protected by the Constitution, put outside government's reach, including the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense under the Second Amendment."

Chicago last year had more homicides than any U.S. city. City officials have long acknowledged the ban on gun sales has been weakened due to the legal sale of guns in some surrounding suburbs and states.

Gay couples' rush to marry in Utah grinds to a halt

By BRADY MCCOMBS
AND MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — More than 1,000 gay and lesbian couples in Utah have exchanged wedding vows over the past two weeks in jubilant celebrations — but the rush on same-sex marriage licenses has come to an end.

The U.S. Supreme Court put a halt to them Monday by granting the state of Utah a stay on a federal judge's ruling that two other courts previously denied. The decision drew cheers from Gov. Gary Herbert and other state officials, who immediately instructed county clerks to stop marrying gay and lesbian couples. In Utah's largest county, four couples were turned away.

The justices did not rule on the merits of the case or on same-sex marriage bans in general, leaving both sides confident they'll ultimately win. The decision stays in effect while the Denver-based 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals considers the long-term question of whether gay couples have a right to wed in Utah.

Meanwhile, hundreds of newly married couples were thrown into legal and emotional limbo by the decision. Legal scholars say their marriage licenses will be honored by the federal government,

but Utah officials are trying to determine whether the marriages that have already taken place are still valid.

The latest twist in the legal battle clouds what was seen as a cause for celebration. "It feels like we are second-class citizens during the stay," said Moudi Sbeity, who is waiting to get married after the legal process plays out. "There's also the fear of the unknown of what might come next."

Sbeity and partner Derek Kitchen are among three couples who brought the Utah lawsuit that led to the surprise Dec. 20 ruling by U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby, who said the state's ban on same-sex marriage violated gay and lesbian couples' constitutional rights.

Many couples who have tied the knot are choosing to move forward as planned, optimistic the ruling will be upheld by the appeals court. They are buoyed by a shift in momentum in favor of gay marriage and rulings around the country allowing the weddings.

"I feel very confident that at this time in the history of the United States this is going to go forward and our marriage is going to stand," said Arlene Arnold, who married her partner of 20 years, Lorean Major.



Chris Serrano, left, and Clifton Webb embrace after being married on Dec. 20 at the Salt Lake County Clerk's Office in Salt Lake City. The Supreme Court has put same-sex marriages on hold in Utah while a federal appeals court more fully considers the issue.

Boston's first new mayor in 20 years takes office

By BOB SALSBERG
The Associated Press

BOSTON — One political era ended and a new one began Monday as Martin Walsh was sworn in as the city's mayor, succeeding Thomas Menino, Boston's longest-serving chief executive, who retired after more than two decades in office.

"I will listen. I will learn. I will lead," Walsh said in his inaugural address at Boston College, his alma mater.

The former Democratic state representative and one-time labor leader called Boston a city of courage, of champions and of big dreams, noting that he was once just a kid from the city's Dorchester neighborhood and joking that even his mother was surprised at how far he had come.

Walsh, 46, outlined a series of broad policy goals, including improving public safety and ending "senseless gun violence." While noting that the 40 homicides in Boston last year were fewer than the year before, Walsh said the number was still too high.

Walsh also said he would work to strengthen the economy and create jobs, improve the city's schools and increase transparency at City Hall, including new conflict-of-interest and personal financial disclosure rules for city officials. He also said he would work to streamline licensing and permitting processes and restructure the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the city's lead economic agency.

Walsh thanked Menino, who first took office in 1993, saying his "legacy is already legend and his vision is all around us."



Walsh

Educator says same-sex marriage prompted his firing

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A former vice principal at a Catholic school said he was fired for marrying his male partner and that the school's leader suggested he could get a divorce to keep the job.

Mark Zmuda said in a YouTube video posted Saturday that he did not resign his position, as officials at Eastside Catholic

School in Sammamish, Wash., have reported. He said he was terminated and the head of the school, Sister Mary Tracy, suggested that he could get a divorce and keep his job.

"It was a piece of paper, they said, that was the reason that I was being let go," Zmuda said in the video, an interview conducted by one of his former students. He said he was shocked that divorce was an option on the table and rejected the idea.

A message left by The Associated Press at a phone number listed for Zmuda's husband was not immediately returned. Tracy didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

School attorney Mike Patterson said Zmuda confirmed in two December conversations that he was resigning from the job. Patterson said the divorce suggestion from Tracy was a hypothetical that was never seriously explored.

WORLD



Syrians hold copies of the Quran during a demonstration to stop fighting between the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and rebels in Aleppo, Syria, on Monday.

ALEPPO MEDIA CENTER/AP

Captive activists killed as Syria's rebel groups clash

By DIAA HADID
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — An al-Qaida group fighting in Syria against rebels trying to dislodge it from opposition-held parts of the country has killed at least four activists it held captive in the area, their colleagues said Tuesday.

The killings came against the backdrop of clashes between rival rebel factions in Syria's northern provinces. The fighting, which has pitted an array of rebel groups against the al-Qaida-linked Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, also known as ISIL, is now in its fifth day.

The clashes are part of a widening war within a war in Syria, this one against radical extremists, adding yet another layer of complexity to the broader Syrian con-

flikt less than three weeks ahead of a planned international peace conference to try to broker a political solution to the civil war.

Syrian activists said the al-Qaida group killed at least four of their colleagues during fighting Monday around an eye hospital that has served as a stronghold for the extremists in the Qadi Askar quarter of the northern city of Aleppo.

Three of the killed worked for an opposition outlet called "Shada al-Hurriya" and were seized in December, said the Syrian Journalists Association. An activist, who identified himself only by his nickname, Abu Saleh al-Halaby, because of fears for his own safety, said the fourth slain colleague was the media man for another headline Islamic rebel brigade, the Nusra Front.

Rami Abdurrahman, of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, also reported that four activists were killed but couldn't confirm their identities. The Observatory and other activist groups rely on a network of people on the ground in Syria.

The killings underscore concerns for the fate of unknown numbers — at least dozens — of Syrians and foreigners believed held by the al-Qaida-linked group.

Since muscling in into rebel-held areas of the country in March, the al-Qaida fighters are believed to have detained foreign reporters, Syrian activists, rival rebel fighters and others critical of their rule. They have also detained citizens perceived to have disobeyed their extreme interpretation of Islamic law.

Naked Australian man gets stuck in washer

SYDNEY — A naked Australian man who became stuck in a washing machine as part of an ill-planned practical joke was freed from the appliance with the help of an unusual rescue device: olive oil.

The 20-year-old man, identified only as "Laurence," told Australia's Fairfax Radio that he was on his way to take a shower Saturday

when he decided to climb into the top-loader to have a bit of fun. The fun quickly evaporated when he realized he couldn't budge.

He called out to his friend for help, who rang the police. They responded to the scene, along with firefighters, paramedics and a search and rescue squad.

"He was very well wedged in there and we were concerned for his health and well-being," Shepparton police Sgt. Michelle De Araujo told the Shepparton News. "It was just a game gone wrong. It

would be fair to say the gentleman was very embarrassed."

Rescuers tried in vain to pull Laurence from the machine. When it became clear he was seriously stuck, they grabbed a bottle of his favorite olive oil to help lubricate his escape. The oil worked, and he popped out. "I was quite disappointed they used my good olive oil," Laurence told Fairfax Radio. "As soon as the washing machine went on its side, it was a bit like a birthing."

From The Associated Press

At least 30 killed in Nigerian village

By AHMED SAKA
The Associated Press

JOS, Nigeria — Gunmen shot and killed at least 30 people, burned down 40 homes and made off with scores of cattle from a mainly Christian village, survivors and a legislator said Tuesday as ongoing ethnic-religious conflict over land and water grips central Nigeria.

Some victims returned to death in Monday's attack, according to witnesses and the military.

Military spokesman Capt. Salifu Mustapha said soldiers recovered 15 bodies, seven of them charred, disputing the higher death toll. Authorities regularly downplay such casualty figures.

The financial secretary of the Miyette Allah, a Fulani association, denied charges that Fulani herdsmen were the attackers, saying those making the claims "must bring proof."

Legislator Daniel Dem said 30 people were killed and many injured in the attack that lasted more than four hours. "We have security men there, and if the attack started at 8 a.m. and lasted until after noon, I think something must be wrong," he said. "What are the military doing for?"

Mustapha said soldiers were alerted at 9:30 a.m. and quickly deployed to find "dozens of armed men ... burning huts, farm produce and attacking innocent people." He said the troops called for reinforcement to repel the attackers.

Soldiers are based in Riyom town, which is not far from the scene as the crow flies, but many villages are in mountains with difficult terrain. Riyom is about

30 miles from Jos, the Plateau state capital.

Dem noted that a village chief and two community leaders were killed there just before Christmas, indicating tensions between semi-nomadic Fulani herdsmen who are Muslim and sedentary Christian farmers who regularly feud over land and water. Christian politicians have the upper hand in the region around Plateau — an area where the country's mainly Muslim north and predominantly Christian south collide and deadly clashes are frequent.

Human Rights Watch last month blamed Nigeria's government, saying it has largely ignored years of "mass murder" in Nigeria's Middle Belt and failed to prosecute known killers, leaving people to take to revenge killings that further fuel the cycle of violence.

Militants waging an Islamic uprising in northeast Nigeria have "invoked the lack of justice for attacks on Muslims" in these communities to justify killing Christians, the New York-based advocacy group said, amid fears the rebellion could spread.

The chairman of Berom (Christian) Movement Dango Audu Gyang, said Fulani gunmen stormed four villages of the Shonong community in a "commando-like operation." He said he did not have a toll because "we are still evacuating corpses and searching for missing persons in the bush."

At a nearby Christian Hospital Vorn said they were treating 15 critically injured, speaking on condition of anonymity because she is not allowed to speak to reporters.

Tainted food eyed in illness

The Associated Press

TOKYO — More than 350 people have been sickened across Japan after eating frozen food products that may have been tainted with a pesticide, Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported Tuesday.

Food maker Maruha Nichiro Holdings began recalling 6 million packages of various frozen foods on Dec. 29, saying it found some were tainted by high levels of pesticides. The company has received hundreds of thousands of calls about the problem.

Food and medicine from local governments showed 356 people suffered vomiting, diarrhea and other problems after eating items subject to the recall,

which include a wide range of products such as frozen pizzas, croquettes and lasagna.

It was unclear if consumption of the tainted products was directly responsible for the illnesses, NHK said.

Maruha Nichiro said it has retrieved about 1.1 million packages subject to the recall so far. Last week, it issued a formal apology and appealed to consumers not to eat any of the affected products. Police are investigating how the items were contaminated with the pesticide malathion, reportedly up to 2.6 million times the allowable level.

The tainted products were produced by a factory in northern Japan's Gunma prefecture.

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OPINION

How Obama can get his groove back

By ALBERT R. HUNT

BloomberG News

Even with no real scandal and only one demonstrable policy blunder, the health care rollout, President Barack Obama had a miserable 2013 as his public standing plummeted. History suggests it is tough for a second-term president to rebound. Here are five ways Obama could defy those odds.

■ **Open up the wagons.** Ingrained habits are hard to change, and the 52-year-old incumbent isn't going to transform himself. Still, he may appreciate how much his insularity hurt him last year. Over the past month, there have been three important additions to the White House ranks: John Podesta, a former chief of staff in Bill Clinton's administration, who, other than Jim Baker in Ronald Reagan's administration, was the most effective occupant of that position; plus Phil Schilliro, as health care adviser, and Katie Fallon, who starts as congressional liaison, both with considerable credibility.

Will the president listen to them in the crunch? It will be instructive to see whether Podesta will be limited to energy and environmental matters, as the White House initially suggested, or has a wide-ranging portfolio. One encouraging sign, some Democrats say, is that White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough realizes the value of broadening the inner circle.

■ **Mend health care.** The president and Democrats are paying a huge price for the dreadful rollout of the Affordable Care Act and HealthCare.gov. The goal of 7 million enrollees by April 1 is beyond reach. There must, however, be a substantial number — say 5 million, with a quarter of those young people — to keep the support of the insurance industry and prevent an explosion in premiums.

Obama had to enlist an expert to fix the website. The critical question in 2014 will be whether a chief executive is tapped to run the entire program. If White House resistance persists, look for more problems and controversies that will make the website screw-ups seem tame.

■ **Go on the offensive.** On health care, the best the White House can do is to neutralize the issue. The president's camp knows it needs to put the Republicans on the defensive elsewhere: by pushing an extension of



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

President Barack Obama walks with his daughter Sasha as they return to the White House on Sunday from their 15-day family vacation in Hawaii.

unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless and raising the minimum wage. The president also plans to emphasize the one issue that scares mainstream Republicans, immigration reform, which House conservatives threaten to kill.

The improving economy affords the president an opportunity to challenge Republicans on income inequality. Critics will yell about class warfare. Yet the incongruity of the recovery — good for the well-to-do, not so good for the working class — is beyond dispute, as was well documented recently by Steven Rattner, a former Wall Street executive and Obama's automobile-industry rescue czar.

■ **Beyond the water's edge.** One of the few bright spots for Team Obama last year was Secretary of State John Kerry. Like most second-term presidents, Obama views geopolitical achievements as a way to burnish his legacy.

A nuclear deal with the Iranians would be one such success; less likely, though

conceivable, is genuine progress on the Israeli-Palestinian front. Foreign policy achievements, however, rarely elevate a second-term president's popularity. Failure with Iran or a conflict in the South China Sea could undermine him further.

■ **Luck.** Events beyond a president's control can shape his destiny. Last year's deal over Syria's chemical weapons stockpile was more due to luck, with the unexpected help of Russia, than skill. The outcome was much better than the alternatives. Obama may not be so lucky next time.

The economy, as always, will be critical. With the Republican-controlled House, the president is devoid of realistic policy options to accelerate growth. But the psychology and perceptions may matter a lot.

The odds remain again at real recovery for the president. If most of the boxes above are checked off, or if the not-so-loyal Republican opposition reverts to self-destruction, Obama's good fortune may continue.

Military pension system due for reform

Washington Post editorial

That didn't take long: President Obama's signature on a hard-work House-Senate health deal was barely dry before members of Congress from both parties began falling all over themselves to undo one of its provisions.

We refer to the 1 percentage-point reduction in military pension annual cost-of-living increases, which provides \$6 billion in savings over 10 years, intended, in part, to restore badly needed funds for current national defense. Bowing to the powerful military retiree lobby, Senate Democrat Jeanne Shaheen, N.H., and House Republicans Martha Roby, Ala., and Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Pa., have introduced bills that would replace the pension trim with, respectively, higher corporate tax collections or a reduction in child tax credits for low-income families.

Opponents of the provision defend its purported unfairness to those who have served at great risk in the past, and they

assert that it will harm recruitment and retention in the future. The facts suggest otherwise.

For one thing, the cut is an exceedingly modest one on a pension plan that is already far more generous than private-sector equivalents. For someone who enlisted at age 18 and retired as an Army sergeant first class at 38, lifetime retirement pay would decline from \$17.34 million to \$16.26 million, according to House Budget Committee staff. That \$1.626 million would still be covered out with generous military health coverage and earnings for working in the civilian sector, which most military retirees enjoy.

This is not "breaking faith with the promise that was made to these folks that have waged war for this nation for the last 12 years," as the president of the Military Officers Association of America, Vice Adm. Norbert Ryan, said on the PBS NewsHour Thursday. It is a small shift in resources toward training and equipping those who might have to defend us in the future. Rhetoric notwithstanding, many

of the war-fighters who bear the biggest combat burdens get no pension at all; only one-eighth of enlisted personnel serve the 20 years necessary to qualify, according to a 2011 report by the Defense Business Board. As these numbers imply, most recruits didn't join for the pension. "Surveys consistently report that military retirement has little value in recruitment or retention for at least the first 10 years of service," the board found.

It's impossible to say whether either the Democratic or Republican proposals to undo the pension trim will pass; their respective "pay-fors" seem equally unacceptable to members of the opposing party, while the White House seems disinclined to revisit the issue. It's sufficiently depressing that the debate sank to this level so quickly. Like civilian entitlements, military retirement — a \$50 billion-plus item in the defense budget — is overdue for deeper reforms, such as adjustment to the all-or-nothing 20-year service requirement. It does the men and women of our armed forces no dishonor to say so.

OPINION

Through technology, US will reinvent itself again

BY VIVEK WADHWA
AND ALEX SALKEVER

We have moved from the Great Recession to the Great Malaise. Despite massive government stimulus, the world's largest and most advanced economy continues to limp sideways. Unemployment remains stubbornly high. Growth remains slow and prospects for employment growth remain bleak. Wages continue to stagnate. Recent college graduates and young professionals may well be the first generation to live a life inferior to those of their parents, conventional wisdom holds. The United States has entered a period of slow decline, much like the sun finally setting on the British Empire in the 20th century.

And that's not all, the pessimists say. They also argue that while the United States continues to dominate in the emergence of new technology powerhouses, the biggest IPO of the decade belongs to Facebook, a social network that is more media company than technology innovator. Stifling red tape and regulations have driven costs of testing new medicines and medical devices so high that many drug companies have shifted testing regimes and market focus to Europe and Asia. Despite mounting evidence that skilled immigrant entrepreneurs have delivered a wildly disproportionate share of the country's technology innovation and technology job growth, the powers that be in Washington have, even with broad bipartisan support, not mustered up the votes to reform the country's repressive and punitive immigration policies. Add to all of this an aging populace requiring more and more support from younger workers, ballooning health costs and a tax structure that beggars the young to underwrite benefits for the aged, and the

United States looks more and more like a historical footnote than a superpower.

Peel back the layers of the onion, and the reality appears quite different. In fact, the United States stands on the cusp of a dramatic revival and rejuvenation, propelled by an amazing wave of technological innovation. A slew of breakthroughs will deliver the enormous productivity gains and the societal dramatic cost savings needed to sustain economic growth and prosperity. Those breakthroughs, mostly digital in nature, will complete the shift begun by the Internet away to a new era where the precepts of Moore's Law can be applied to virtually any field.

Computer-assisted design and fabrication will reshape manufacturing forever. These technologies will slash waste and replace nearly all conventional manufacturing with more environmentally friendly and cost-effective additive manufacturing run with robots and computer programs. Complex systems resistant to modeling will succumb to advances in big data that allow mankind to finally make sense and improve upon the most intricate multifaceted interactions. Where big data fails, ubiquitous crowd-sourcing will harness untapped brain cycles to train systems and solve problems, or small activity at a time — on a global scale.

In this massively digital world, A/B testing or parallelization of R&D processes will become commonplace for just about everything from airline design simulations to online advertising to artificial organ construction. This will, in turn, allow for far more rigorous testing of products and processes. Dirt-cheap digital delivery platforms for educational content and improvements in the understanding of the way the brain learns will yield a sea change in how we gain knowledge. That will result in more

The United States stands on the cusp of a dramatic revival and rejuvenation, propelled by an amazing wave of technological innovation.

open, flexible educational systems and structures — and a smarter, more learned, constantly learning populace. While the world will benefit from these changes, the United States is uniquely positioned to lead this sea change.

In the field of energy, the enhanced availability of natural gas extracted domestically via new fracking techniques has sent costs plummeting and has resulted in the usurpation of old-line coal-fired power plants for gas-fired generation facilities. In turn, this has driven a new wave of construction of high-efficiency steel and chemical plants along the Gulf Coast, close to shipping lanes and benefitting from cheap natural gas or electricity. Energy efficiency technologies, such as LED light bulbs, improved heating and cooling systems, and Internet-enabled hardware like the Nest thermostat, can save enough money to offset the initial cost — often within a year or less.

The implications of these shifts are tremendous. Manufacturing in this country will rebound. The economies of scale that benefited cheap labor and cheap locations overseas will be stood on their head as the percentage of cost of manufacturing products consumed by labor continues to drop due to automation and mechanization. People will learn more, faster, more easily and with far more enjoyment. Health care costs will fall dramatically as the old doctor's office-centric and one-size-fits-many treatment approaches give way to personalized

medicine. Connected hardware — cars, thermostats, cellphones, pacemakers, appliances, heating and cooling systems — will supply an endless stream of useful data that will allow us to optimize for efficiency and live more comfortable lives.

Because the United States continues to lead the world in its ability to adapt to, incorporate and develop new systems and new technologies, we are uniquely poised to reap a disproportionate share of the benefits of these shifts. Even better, these advances will remedy the very weaknesses that have straitjacketed the U.S. economy and confined economic growth to the upper classes while causing income and life expectancy to stagnate for the lower 70 percent of the country's population over the past three decades.

The Internet is in the very early stages of a driving an exponential economic growth curve akin to what electricity earlier wrought during the later half of the Industrial Revolution. Let us remember that the Internet only achieved semi-mass adoption a decade ago. (We say semi because, unlike electricity, not everyone has access to the same quality of Internet and that is an area where the United States lags the rest of the developed world.)

Wadhwa is director of research at the Center for Entrepreneurship and Research Commercialization at Duke's engineering school. Salkever is a writer focused on cloud computing and new technologies. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Legalized pot the latest rung on our stupefaction ladder

BY JOHN M. CRISP
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Colorado took an extraordinary step last week when, on Jan. 1, it implemented a law that legalizes the sale of marijuana for recreational use. The state of Washington isn't far behind Colorado, and it's likely that if their experiments play out reasonably well, other states will legalize pot, as well.

In fact, The Washington Post reported that proponents for legalization have collected enough signatures to put the issue on the ballot this year in Alaska, and they have hopes for Oregon next year and six more states by 2016.

At least 18 pot shops were open for business in Denver on Jan. 1, selling up to an ounce of marijuana to Colorado residents over 21. Out-of-state customers are limited to a quarter of an ounce.

Dozens of additional stores are expected to open in coming months, and officials are anticipating that marijuana sales could add up to \$200 million to Colorado's economy, as well as produce close to \$70 million in tax revenue.

The trend is probably inevitable, but I'll admit to misgivings. Consider the role and uses of "stupefaction" in our culture. The term is quaint, but I use it in connection with the Russian writer Count Leo Tolstoy, the author of very big books like "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina." After a dissolute youth and a long, productive life Tolstoy adopted a radical version of Christianity and a rigid asceticism that resulted in 1891 in a short essay that asks a poignant ques-



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

Partygoers smoke marijuana during a Prohibition-era-themed New Year's Eve party at a Denver bar, celebrating the start of retail pot sales in Colorado.

tion, "Why Do Men Stupefy Themselves?"

Tolstoy laments the excessive use of drugs in late 19th-century Russia, substances like vodka, wine, beer, hashish, opium, morphine and even tobacco. Tolstoy's definition of a stupefactant was anything that dulled the mind enough to make it lose sight of its conscience.

It doesn't take much. Tolstoy implies that the fictional murderer of "Crime and Punishment," Raskolnikov, was pushed over the edge by as little as a glass of beer and a cigarette. In fact, he speculates that the work of philosopher Immanuel Kant wouldn't have been written in such a "bad style" if

Kant hadn't smoked so many cigarettes.

It's interesting to consider what Tolstoy would have thought of our culture's insatiable attraction to stupefaction, which we achieve in all sorts of ways — alcohol and illegal drugs, of course, but also plenty of legal drugs, food, TV, consumerism and enormous amounts of electronic entertainment, diversion and distraction, more than enough to keep our consciences at bay, as well as the realities of the bad things that happen in the world.

In fact, Tolstoy might have thought that a few cigarettes and a glass of beer are preferable to the stupefaction of the mod-

ern pot-bellied, middle-age American man who watches three football games on Saturday, two on Sunday, one on Monday, one on Thursday, and maybe Friday, as well.

Tolstoy's answer is total abstinence, a bar that is probably too high in a land where stupefaction, in all its forms and degrees, has become a synonym for pleasure. Besides, stupefaction in moderation is fun — it feels good! — and few of us would want to return to the pleasure-denying Puritanism prominent at the beginnings of our country.

Unfortunately, humans — and, maybe, especially Americans — don't have much genius for moderation, and nearly all stupefactants, from cocaine to videogames, are somewhat addictive.

Certainly, Colorado and Washington deserve credit for doing away with some of the irony and hypocrisy in our attitude toward marijuana, which accepts and even admires its admitted use by celebrities (Bill Maher, Willie Nelson, Cheech and Chong) and presidents (Bill Clinton, Barack Obama), while running up the world's highest incarceration rate by the disproportionate prosecution of minorities.

But the challenge for citizens in both states will be avoiding self-indulgence and achieving a level of moderation that enhances, rather than diminishes, their lives. Unfortunately, we've never been very good at balancing abstinence against obsessive stupefaction. But, please, Colorado, do your best.

John M. Crisp teaches in the English Department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas.

WORLD



PHOTOS BY MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP

Egyptian rapper Myam Mahmoud pauses next to a mural in Cairo. Mahmoud, 18, rapped her way to the semifinals of the Mideast TV show "Arabs Got Talent" with songs that address the challenges women across the Arab world are fighting to overcome.

Well-versed in Egyptian women's struggles

'I wish we would not be silent about our problems,' says teen who raps to give others a voice

By MARIAM RIZK
The Associated Press

CAIRO — As soon as the beat started, the young woman bobbed her head to the rhythm, raised her hands to get the crowd clapping and then unleashed a flood of rap lyrics that tackled some of the biggest social challenges women face in the Arab world.

With the Middle East's hit TV show "Arabs Got Talent" as her stage, Myam Mahmoud, 18, rapped about sexual harassment, second-class treatment of women, and societal expectations of how a young religious woman should behave.

The Egyptian teenager didn't win the program — she crashed out in the semifinals — but she did succeed in throwing the spotlight on something bigger than herself.

"I wanted to tell girls in Egypt and everywhere else that they are not alone, we all have the same problems, but we cannot stay silent; we have to speak up," said Mahmoud, who wears an Islamic headscarf but not a full-face veil.

In Egypt, a country where politics have grabbed most of the headlines for the past three years, little space has been dedicated to addressing social problems. So Mahmoud, who is a first-year student of politics and economics at the October 6 University in a western Cairo suburb, decided to draw attention to women's rights through rap.

"Everybody speaks about politics, but nobody tackles the topics that relate to me the most," Mahmoud said.

She said she gets the ideas for her songs from the surrounding community, and that

sometimes girls send her their problems to write about and give them a voice.

"Many girls want to say what I rap about, but they cannot for many reasons," she said. "I speak for them."

One of the biggest problems for women in Egypt is sexual harassment. A U.N. report released in April said the issue had

reached "unprecedented levels," with 99.3 percent of women in the country reporting that they have been subjected to sexual harassment.

"There is no single female in Egypt that has not been harassed, regardless of her looks," Mahmoud said. "As soon as a girl is born in Egypt, she is repressed with many

pressures."

Part of the problem, in Mahmoud's eyes, is that women don't speak out against harassment.

"I wish we would not be silent about our problems," she said. "We have to snatch our freedoms, nobody will just offer them."

Her lyrics take the issue head on.

"Some of us see the answer is to cover up, and if the girl is hidden she will not be assaulted," she raps in one song. "My body is only mine."

Initiatives to counter the problem have increased in the past year in Egypt, where volunteer groups have started protecting women at street protests. On the other side of the debate are conservative religious clerics who blame women, saying they invite harassment and sexual abuse by mixing with men.

The issue is, in part at least, linked to the broader expectations that many men in religiously conservative Egypt have about women and their roles in society. Mahmoud, with her quiet self-confidence and animated performances in a genre that has gained more acceptance among younger Egyptians in recent years, has challenged those expectations.

She said she received a flood of messages after her performance on TV accusing her of misrepresenting Islam with her look — read veil — and attitude. But she dismissed the criticism, saying "religion has never been a constraint — we put the curbs on."

"The veil was never a problem for me because it is my personal choice," she said. "If I'm going to add anything new to my life it has to go with my initial choices."



Mahmoud says sometimes girls send her their problems to include in her songs.

NATION

The law's steady heads



PHOTOS BY JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Bobblehead dolls representing Supreme Court justices are some of the rarest ever produced.

Bobbleheads of justices popular with legal 'geeks'

By JESSICA GRESKO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They are some of the rarest bobblehead dolls ever produced. They're released erratically. They're given away for free, not sold. And if you get a certificate to claim one, you have to redeem it at a Washington law office.

The limited edition bobbleheads of Supreme Court justices are the work of law professor Ross Davies, who has been creating them for the past 10 years. When finished, they arrive unannounced on the real justices' desks, secreted there by unnamed confederates.

Fans will go to some lengths to get one.

"I think we take seriously trying to do them well," said Davies, a law professor at Virginia's George Mason University and the editor of an entertaining quarterly legal journal called *The Green Bag*.

Subscribing to the journal is the most reliable way to get a voucher to claim a bobblehead when they are released, but there's no guarantee. The certificates warn that the bearer "might be able" to exchange it for a bobblehead, and the journal also hands out some bobbleheads to nonsubscribers, including law



Ross Davies, professor of law and editor of *The Green Bag*, a law journal, holds one of the bobbleheads of Supreme Court justices he helped design.

school public interest groups that auction them at fundraisers. Some ultimately wobble their way onto eBay, where they reliably sell for hundreds of dollars.

The justices themselves seem to have been charmed by their caricatures. Antonin Scalia once said in an interview that he understands his is the most popular. Stephen Breyer had four of the figures of his colleagues on display in his chambers during a 2009 C-SPAN interview. His own is currently in the works. And former Chief Justice William Rehnquist sent a thank-you

note for his, which was the first to come out in 2003.

"Thank you for the 'bobblehead' likeness of me which now sits on the mantle of the fireplace in my chambers," Rehnquist wrote. "It is probably a better likeness of me as I was 15 years ago than as I am now, but obviously I won't complain."

Davies said the idea for the bobbleheads came to him in the shower. In the decade since, he has immortalized 16 justices in ceramic, including four of the current court's nine members. Included in that total are a set

of miniature bobbleheads representing the first justices appointed to the court. Certificates for the newest tiny justice, John Blair, recently went out.

The dolls, which are produced by Bellevue, Wash.-based Alexander Global Promotions, are more than straight likenesses of the justices. Each has multiple references to the legal legacy of the person it honors.

For example, Justice Louis Brandeis rides a train, a nod to his important opinion in a case involving the Erie Railroad in Pennsylvania. The David Souter

bobblehead plays a song by Modest Mouse, a band he mentioned in a copyright case. And Ruth Bader Ginsburg stands on a replica of the parade ground at the Virginia Military Institute. In 1996 she wrote an opinion striking down the school's all-male admissions policy.

Annotated sheets help collectors decode the details, which fans have been known to memorize and recite for visitors.

"It's like proof of their legal geekdom," said Gregory Jacob, a Washington law firm partner and part of a small group of Green Bag editors who help create the bobbleheads.

No detail is too small. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's bobblehead replicates the shoes she wore on Sept. 25, 1981, the day she was sworn in as the court's first female member.

John Paul Stevens stands on a Betamax VCR, a nod to his opinion in a copyright case involving the device. When the VCR wasn't turning out right in production, Davies bought one on eBay and shipped it to China for a bobblehead sculptor to study.

So far, Davies has gone through four drafts of the upcoming Breyer bobblehead, which portrays Breyer engaged in a favorite activity, riding his bike.

The attention to detail delights devotees, who have been known to drive hundreds of miles to pick up their bobbleheads. And the figurines often are displayed in a prominent place in their owners' offices.

WIRED WORLD

Bookless future



PHOTOS BY ERIC GAY/AP

Above: Caroline Ramirez, left, and Sam Martinez use computers at BiblioTech, a first-of-its-kind digital public library, in December in San Antonio. Below: Computers stand ready for use at BiblioTech.

Texas county opens nation's only all-electronic public library

BY PAUL J. WEBER
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Texas has seen the future of the public library, and it looks a lot like an Apple Store: Rows of glossy iMacs beckon. iPads mounted on a tangerine-colored bar invite readers. Hundreds of other tablets stand ready for checkout to anyone with a borrowing card.

Even the librarians imitate Apple's dress code, wearing matching shirts and that standard-bearer of geek-chic, the hoodie. But this \$2.3 million library might be most notable for what it does not have — any actual books.

That makes Bexar County's BiblioTech the nation's only bookless public library, a distinction that has attracted scores of digital bookworms, plus emissaries from as far away as Hong Kong who want to learn about the idea and possibly take it home.

"I told our people that you need to take a look at this. This is the future," said Mary Graham, vice president of South Carolina's Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce. "If you're going to be building new library facilities, this is what you need to be doing."

All-digital libraries have been on college campuses for years. But the county, which runs no other libraries, made history when it decided to open BiblioTech. It is the first bookless public library system in the country, according to information gathered by the American Library Association.

Similar proposals in other communities have been met with doubts. In California, the city of Newport Beach floated the concept of a bookless branch in 2011 until a backlash put stacks back in the plan. Nearly a decade earlier in Arizona, the Tucson-Pima library system

opened an all-digital branch, but residents who said they wanted books ultimately got their way.

Graham toured BiblioTech in the fall and is pushing Charleston leaders for a bond measure in 2014 to fund a similar concept, right down to the same hip aesthetic reminiscent of Apple.

Except Apple Stores aren't usually found in parts of town like this. BiblioTech is on the city's economically depressed South Side and shares an old strip mall with a Bexar County government building. On a recent afternoon, one confused couple walked into the library looking for the justice of the peace.

San Antonio is the nation's seventh-largest city but ranks 60th in literacy, according to census figures. Back in the early 2000s, community leaders in BiblioTech's neighborhood of low-income apartments and thrift stores rallied about not even having a nearby bookstore, said Laura Cole, BiblioTech's project coordinator. A decade later, Cole said, most families in the area still don't have wi-fi.

"How do you advance literacy with so few resources available?" she said.

Residents are taking advantage now. The library is on pace to surpass 100,000 visitors in its first year.

Finding an open iMac among the four dozen at BiblioTech is often difficult after the nearby high school lets out, and about half of the facility's e-readers are checked out at any given time, each loaded with up to five books. One of BiblioTech's regulars is a man teaching himself Mandarin.

Head librarian Ashley Elkholf came from a traditional Wisconsin high school library and recalled the scourges of her old job: misshelved items hopelessly lost in the stacks, pages thoughtlessly ripped out of books and items that went unreturned by patrons who were unfazed by measly fines and lax enforcement.

In the nearly four months since BiblioTech opened, Elkholf has yet to lend out one of her pricey tablets and never see it again. The space is also more economical than traditional libraries despite the technology. BiblioTech purchases its 10,000-title digital collection for the same price as physical copies, but the county saved millions of dollars on architecture because the building's design didn't need to accommodate printed books.

"If you have bookshelves, you have to structure the building so it can hold all of that weight," Elkholf said. "Books are

heavy, if you've ever had one fall on your foot."

Up the road in Austin, for example, the city is building a downtown library to open in 2016 at a cost of \$120 million. Even a smaller, traditional public library that recently opened in nearby suburban Kyle cost that city about \$1 million more than BiblioTech.

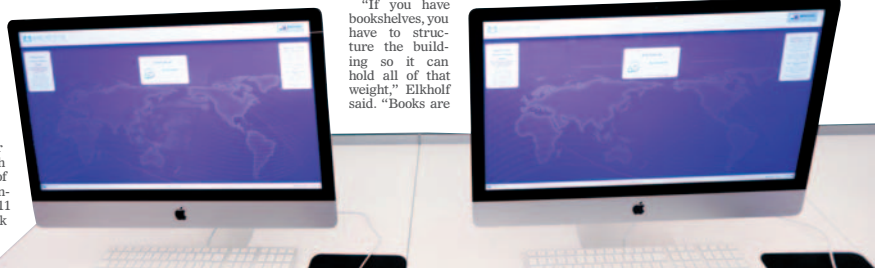
On her first visit, Abigail Reyes, 19, was only looking for a quiet space to study for an algebra exam.

She got a quick tutorial from a librarian on how to search for digital books and how to check out tablets before plopping down on a row of sleek couches.

"I kind of miss the books," Reyes said. "I don't like being on the tablets and stuff like that. It hurts my eyes."

Across the room, Rosemary Caballero tried shopping for health insurance on a set of computers reserved for enrollment in the Affordable Care Act. Her restless 2-year-old ran around and pawed at a row of keyboards. The little girl shrieked loudly, shattering the main room's quiet. She was soon whisked outside by her father.

After all, it's still a library.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Carjacker killed in high-speed chase

LA BATON ROUGE — A woman who carjacked a vehicle from a good Samaritan who offered her a ride in freezing weather Monday was killed minutes later in a collision with another vehicle while speeding through a red light, Baton Rouge police said.

The carjacking happened about 10 a.m. when two women approached the car's driver and asked for a ride.

Cpl. Don Coppola Jr., a police spokesman, told The Advocate that the woman drove her passengers a short distance and dropped them off near a car wash, "at which time they said, 'We have a gun and we're going to take your car.'" Fearing for her life, the victim grabbed her cellphone and bailed out of the car while the two women sped off.

The carjackers ran a red light and crashed head-on into another car, causing the stolen vehicle to turn over. The driver of the stolen vehicle, who was not immediately identified, was pronounced dead at the scene. The other suspect was taken into police custody, Coppola said.

Homeless man is not rock band's drummer

MA GLOUCESTER — He wasn't asked to play a few licks on the drums, but police in Gloucester quickly determined that the homeless man they found at a city business wasn't who he claimed to be.

When officers responded to the business Thursday to assist employees with the man, he claimed he was the drummer for the 1980s-era hard rock band Whitesnake. The Gloucester Times reported that a quick check of records indicated that was not true.

The man, who had no known address, had been asked to leave an apartment building earlier in the night when he was found sleeping in the doorway. He was taken to a hospital for evaluation.

Man who slapped child on flight gets 8 months

GA ATLANTA — A man who pleaded guilty to slapping a crying toddler on an airline flight has been sentenced to eight months in federal prison. Joe Rickey Hundley was sentenced Monday. He pleaded guilty in October after reaching a plea agreement with prosecutors.

Prosecutors said Hundley used a racial slur to refer to the 19-month-old boy, who is black, and hit him under the eye as the flight attendant tried to take the Atlanta airport in February.

Prosecutors had recommended six months in prison. The judge said he imposed a higher sentence in part because of Hundley's criminal history, which includes a prior assault.

Student plans civil action over ABC arrest

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — A University of Virginia student has notified the

THE CENSUS

4 The number of flying squirrels reportedly stolen from a Bismarck, N.D., pet store. The Bismarck Tribune said Animal Kingdom reported that someone stole the squirrels, valued at \$600, late Friday or early Saturday. The police report says two teenage girls looked at the squirrels and some purses Friday afternoon. The purses, valued at \$150, also turned up missing. No arrests have been made.



SETH WENIG/AP

Fit for a king

A camel walks with people dressed as kings during the Three Kings Day parade in New York on Monday. The holiday honors the Three Wise Men and represents the day they gave gifts to Jesus Christ. It also closes Christmas festivities.

state that she plans to file a civil action over her arrest by Alcohol Beverage Control agents.

Don LeMond, with the Virginia Department of Treasury, told The Daily Progress that the notice begins a dialogue between Elizabeth Daly's lawyers and the Virginia Attorney General's Office.

On April 11, ABC agents confronted Daly, 20, after mistaking sparkling water that she had bought for beer. Daly fled with two friends. She was charged with two felonies for grazing two agents with her vehicle. The charges were later dropped.

Daly said she panicked because the agents weren't in uniform and one pulled a gun. LeMond said Daly's notice seeks unspecified damages.

Highway patrol gets \$8,500 to buy drug dog

SD PIERRE — The South Dakota Highway Patrol is getting \$8,500 to buy a police service dog that will be used in drug investigations.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said the money comes from the state's Drug Control Fund, which holds money taken from people engaged in criminal activities.

Jackley said the addition of another service dog will help the highway patrol enforce drug laws across the state.

Police: iPad photos lead to stolen phone arrest

LA METAIRIE — Police said self-taken pictures on an iPad have led to the arrest of a Metairie hotel employee.

The Times-Picayune reported that a guest inadvertently left the device at the hotel about a week ago.

The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office said the owner began receiving "selfies" of another woman through a photo-sharing application on her iPhone. The iPad's owner also received photos of the stranger's family members.

Investigators took the pictures to the hotel, where managers iden-

tified the woman in the photos as a housekeeper. They arrested her on an outstanding warrant for and possession of stolen property.

Although they had a suspect, the sheriff's office didn't recover the device. Investigators said the suspect told them that her boyfriend tossed it into a canal once he learned it was stolen.

School cooks share recipes in new book

VT MONTPELIER — Mac & trees — macaroni and cheese with broccoli — roasted parsnip chips, strawberry and spinach salad and green monster pops were already on the menu at some Vermont schools that have done away with frozen chicken nuggets and fish sticks.

Now those creative cooks are sharing their healthful recipes with other schools. "New School Cuisine: Nutritious and Seasonal Recipes for School Cooks" was produced with help from a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

fundraising and the Vermont Department of Education. It was distributed last month to all Vermont public schools and to every state to spread the word about healthy eating.

Ex-teacher who had sex with student back in jail

WA SEATTLE — Former teacher Mary Kay Letourneau, who made headlines after she had sex with her 12-year-old student, is back in jail in Seattle.

KIRO reported that she was arrested Sunday night and booked into the King County Jail early Monday for failing to appear in court for a suspended driver's license case. She was held with bail set at \$5,000.

The Burien teacher became tabloid fodder in the 1990s when she was convicted of raping the sixth-grade boy when she was 34. She served a prison sentence and married her former student, Vili Fualaau, in 2005 when he was 22.

From wire reports

FACES

FOND FAREWELL

As 'Justified' returns for Season 5, its star and creator recall Elmore Leonard

By JULIE HINDS
Detroit Free Press

When Timothy Olyphant first met Elmore Leonard on the set of "Justified," the man who plays Raylan Givens instantly liked the straight-talking, calls-it-like-he-sees-it vibe of the man who created Raylan Givens.

"He was just as cool as they come," says the star of the FX series, which launched its fifth season Tuesday night in the U.S. ("Justified" premieres Sunday, Jan. 12 on AFN-Spectrum). "Pretty early on, he told me not to be afraid to lose the hat. He said, 'You know, maybe a gust of wind just comes along and you never see it again.' I thought that was fantastic."

Leonard's initial dislike of the cowboy hat chosen for the character of Raylan was one of the few bones that the acclaimed Detroit author had to pick with the series about the tough, laconic, yet complicated U.S. marshal.

Although most Hollywood versions of his work left him disappointed, Leonard experienced a love affair of sorts with "Justified."

He liked the show, which was inspired by his short story "Fire in the Hole," which featured



Elmore Leonard, whose short story "Fire in the Hole" inspired the FX series "Justified," died in August.

will be part of the Season 5 DVD, according to Yost. It will include interviews with cast members and others who worked with Leonard, plus readings from his novels.

Olyphant and Yost traveled to Detroit to attend Leonard's funeral and pay their respects to the man who represented the show's true north. When they talk about him now during separate phone interviews, their sense of loss is almost palpable.

"There's an old saw that you should never meet your heroes, and that applies, but not in Elmore's case," says Yost. "He was just fun to hang out with and had a great attitude about life and work and writing."

In the first episode of the new season, Raylan goes to Florida to work on a case, a trip that brings him back into the realm

of Raylan. And the show liked him more. Series creator Graham Yost was such a Leonard fan that he made WWED (What Would Elmore Do) to guide the writers.

Leonard's death in August at age 87 makes this season of "Justified" a bitter-sweet reunion with viewers. There will be a 90-second tribute to Leonard accompanying the first episode. The brief segment is part of a much longer piece that eventually

of the Crowe family, the law-breaking brood connected to recurring character Dewey Crowe (Damon Herriman).

"It's about the Crowses coming to town. We look at them as an invasive species," says Yost.

At the same time, Raylan's longtime frenemy Boyd (Walton Goggins) heads to Detroit to deal with troubles in his drug trade. While "Justified" had to shoot the Florida scenes on location to capture the lush topography, the Motor City scenes were easier to duplicate elsewhere and were filmed in Los Angeles.

One of the major themes of the season will include Raylan's effort to deal with becoming a father and figuring out what kind of parent he will be, given his tortured relationship with his own dad.

New characters will include crime family leader Darryl Crowe Jr. (Michael Rapaport) and a Florida policeman played by "Anchorman 2" star David Koechner.

Will this season contain any cookies, or secret surprises, that are nods to Leonard?

"If I give those out, then they're no longer cookies," says Yost. But he did reveal that Koechner's character is named Gregg Sutter, the same name as Leonard's longtime real-life researcher.

And in a scene in which Koechner's cop talks about one of his kids trying to become a writer, Yost says the comment he makes "is lifted almost entirely, at least the whole point of it, from something Elmore said in the past about his own writing, that he even talked about when he had his acceptance speech for the National Book Award."

Although Leonard kept a respectful distance from the creative side of "Justified," the series inspired him to write the 2012 book "Raylan." Olyphant helped prod Leonard into developing that novel, at least in part.

"I don't know if he needed much of a nudge," the actor says. Not long after the conversation about the cowboy hat, Olyphant recalls, he told Leonard, "I'll let the wind take my hat off my head; you get back to writing some stories where the character of Raylan is in them."

Leonard's reply to Olyphant? "He said, 'You know, I might do that.'"

Timothy Olyphant as Deputy U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens on "Justified." Leonard loved the show, but was no fan of the hat.

FX

'SNL' adds black woman to its cast

The Associated Press

NBC's comic institution "Saturday Night Live," criticized recently for a lack of diversity, said on Monday that it was adding a black woman to its repertory cast when new episodes start this month.

Sasheer Zamata, who graduated from the University of Virginia in 2008 and has worked with the New York Upright Citizens Brigade comedy troupe, will join the show for the Jan. 18 episode, on which Drake is the host and musical guest. Zamata, 27, is from Indianapolis.

The 137 regular cast members who have been part of "Saturday Night Live" since its 1975 debut have been mostly white and have included only four black women.

The most recent was biracial Maya Rudolph, who left in 2007. Black men, including Eddie Murphy, Tracy Morgan and Chris Rock, have played more prominent roles.

The lack of a black woman among the 16 regular or featured players became an issue this season when the two black male cast members, Kenan Thompson and Jay Pharoah, commented publicly about it and made it known they would no longer dress in drag to portray black women.

"SNL" turned the issue into comedy when "Scandal" star Kerry Washington was a guest host. Washington was portrayed as exasperated when she was asked to impersonate first lady Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey and Beyonce in the same go. At the top of the show, an "SNL" producer apologized for the number of black female characters Washington needed to play that night.

Beyond the scenes, though, "SNL" founding executive producer Lorne Michaels was busy holding comedy showcases across the country, searching for a black woman to join the cast.

"It's not like it's not a priority for us," Michaels said two months ago. "It will happen. I'm sure it will happen."

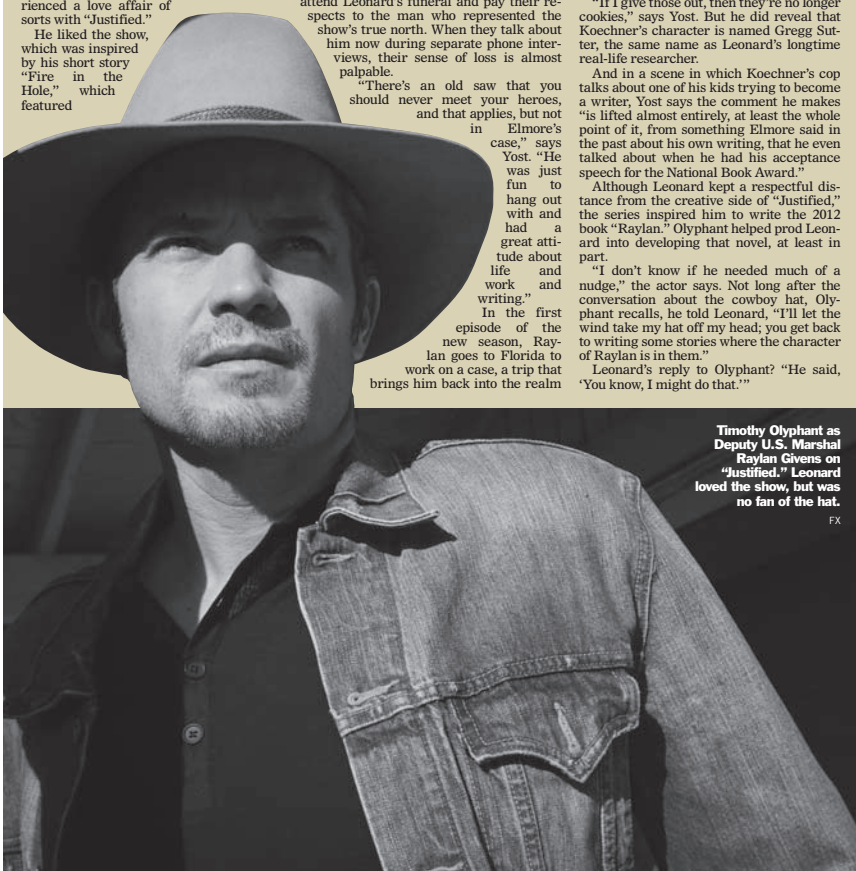
Campion to preside over Cannes jury

Director Jane Campion, the only woman to have won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival, will lead the jury for the prestigious event this year.

Festival organizers announced Tuesday that Campion will succeed Steven Spielberg, who led the jury last year.

New Zealander Campion was awarded the Palme d'Or prize in 1993 for "The Piano."

Campion, looking ahead to the May 14-25 festival, said: "I can't wait."



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BUSINESS/WEATHER

New Sharp TV a bridge between HD, 4K



ISAAC BREKKEN/AP

John Herrington, president of Sharp Electronics Marketing Group of America, introduces the new lineup of Sharp televisions at the Consumer Electronics Show press day on Monday.

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Japanese electronics maker Sharp is bridging the gap between expensive 4K TVs and HD versions with an in-between solution that's also priced in the middle.

Its new Quattron+ technology doubles the vertical resolution of a high-definition set by chopping the existing pixels in half. Meanwhile, it uses a mathematical formula to double the horizontal resolution for everything but certain parts of an image.

According to Sharp, that gives its Quattron+ televisions 16 million subpixels, versus 8 million for its Quattron line and 6 million for HD. It's a middle ground before stepping up to a 4K TV, also known as "ultra HD," which has 24 million subpixels.

Quattron+ TVs can receive 4K signals. A 70-inch model is expected to retail for about \$3,200, far less than a similar 4K model

that will retail for about \$5,500.

Up close, the Quattron+ screen is noticeably more detailed than standard HD. Side-by-side footage of people kayaking, snowboarding or getting a makeup applied — with the technology turned on and off — revealed richer skin texture in close-ups and sharper details all around. The Quattron+ images even compared well with Sharp's 4K screen nearby, although the demo footage was different.

MARKET WATCH

Jan. 6, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-44.89
16,425.10	
Nasdaq composite	-18.23
4,113.68	
Standard & Poor's 500	-4.60
1,826.77	
Russell 2000	-8.93
1,147.16	

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 8)	\$1.4066
Dollar buys (Jan. 8)	€0.7140
British pound (Jan. 8)	\$1.6168
Japanese yen (Jan. 8)	¥100.00
South Korean won (Jan. 8)	₩1,041.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6388
Canada (dollar)	1.0715
China (Yuan)	6.0516
Denmark (Krone)	6.4700
Euro	\$1.3622/7341
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7544
Hungary (Forint)	220.23
Israel (Shekel)	3.5006
Japan (Yen)	104.65
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2823
Norway (Krone)	6.1668
Philippines (Peso)	44.83
Poland (Zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2707
South Korea (Won)	1,067.30
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9079
Thailand (Baht)	33.10
Turkey (Lira)	2.1604

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., currencies of the United States and the United Kingdom), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.06
30-year bond	3.90

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

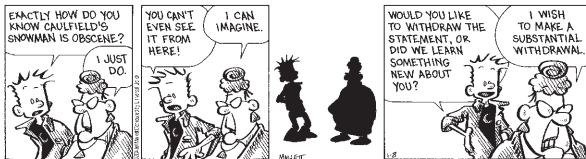
Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	57	28	Cldy	Chatanooga	41	26	Cir	Fort Wayne	18	10	Cldy	Louisville	34	26	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	50	16	Cldy	Cheyenne	35	23	Cldy	Fresno	63	36	PCldy	Lubbock	52	20	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	18	10	PCldy	Chicago	14	6	Cldy	Goodland	32	16	PCldy	Macon	44	31	Cir
Albuquerque	48	29	PCldy	Cincinnati	27	22	Cldy	Grand Junction	29	9	Cldy	Medford	48	35	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	22	17	PCldy	Cleveland	19	14	Cldy	Great Falls	16	-2	Snow	Memphis	39	30	Cldy
Amarillo	38	17	PCldy	Columbia, S.C.	43	28	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	38	23	Cir	Midland-Odessa	62	30	PCldy
Anchorage	30	23	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	44	31	Cir	Harrisburg	24	18	Cldy	Milwaukee	10	-28	Cir
Asheville	39	22	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	25	19	Cldy	Hartford	45	37	Cldy	Minneapolis	2	-8	Cldy
Atlanta	41	29	Cir	Concord, N.H.	21	6	Cir	Hennepin	44	30	Cldy	Missoula	36	28	Cldy
Atlantic City	26	19	Cir	Corpus Christi	68	58	Cldy	Honolulu	79	69	Cldy	Mobile	69	51	Cldy
Austin	57	46	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	45	37	Cldy	Houston	59	48	Cldy	Montgomery	44	26	Cir
Baltimore	26	23	PCldy	Dayton	23	18	Cldy	Huntsville	39	24	Cir	Nashville	39	26	PCldy
Baton Rouge	52	38	Cldy	Daytona Beach	66	57	Cldy	Indianapolis	24	19	Cldy	New Orleans	51	41	PCldy
Billings	37	28	Cldy	Denver	42	23	Cldy	Jacksonville	45	28	PCldy	New York City	23	19	Cir
Birmingham	43	28	Cir	Des Moines	14	4	Cldy	Kansas City	25	17	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	32	26	Cir
Bismarck	38	29	Cldy	Detroit	15	3	Cldy	Key West	37	34	Cir	Omaha	17	6	Cldy
Boise	38	29	Cldy	El Paso	61	37	PCldy	Knoxville	38	24	Cir	Orlando	67	57	Cldy
Boston	22	17	Cir	Elkins	26	19	Cldy	Las Vegas	61	41	Cldy	Paderborn	35	29	Cldy
Bridgeport	22	15	Cir	Erie	21	15	Cldy	Lexington	33	25	Cldy	Philadelphia	24	21	PCldy
Brownsville	71	59	Cldy	Evansville	48	41	Rain	Little Rock	38	30	Cldy	Phoenix	69	46	Cldy
Buffalo	18	13	Snow	Fairbanks	4	-7	Cir	Los Angeles	69	50	PCldy	Pittsburgh	22	17	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	19	8	Cldy	Fargo	-5	-13	PCldy	Manassas	45	35	Cir	Portland, Me.	44	31	Cir
Caribou, Maine	11	0	Cldy	Flagstaff	48	18	PCldy	Memphis	39	30	Cldy	Pueblo	46	31	Cldy
Casper	34	21	PCldy	Flint	15	-4	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	62	30	PCldy	Reno	47	28	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	47	36	Cir	Fort Smith	35	29	Cldy	Minneapolis	2	-8	Cldy	Reno-Burham	38	23	Cldy
Charlotte, W.Va.	33	24	Cldy									Rapid City	22	15	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	40	24	Cir									Roanoke	35	23	PCldy

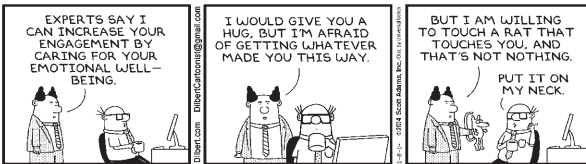
National temperature extremes
Hi: Mon., 85, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Lo: Mon., -37, Rabbit, Minn.

- STARS AND STRIPES

Frazz



Dilbert



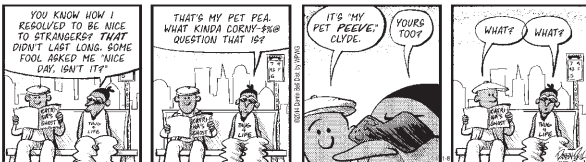
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



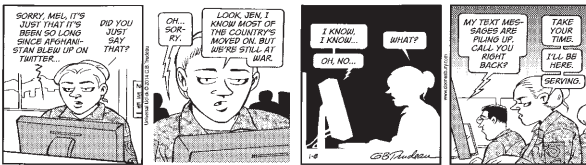
Candorville



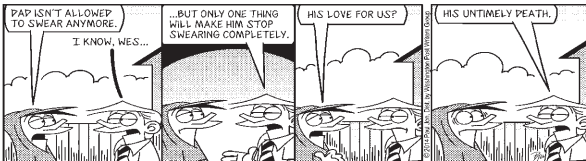
Get Fuzzy



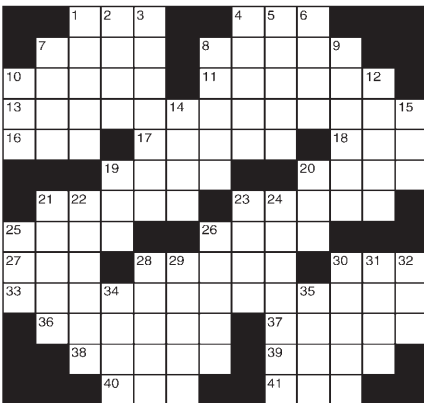
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 100 cts.
- 4 Stashed
- 7 TV chef Cat
- 8 Turner and Del Rey
- 10 Like cumulus clouds
- 11 "Babes —"
- 13 Missouri's capital
- 16 Radical 1960s org.
- 17 Fix a shoelace
- 18 Pirouette pivot
- 19 Clothing store section
- 20 Counterpart of 20-Down
- 21 Move smoothly
- 23 "Loves me (not)" diviner
- 25 Hamilton-Burr battle
- 26 Pen points
- 27 Carte intro
- 28 Off
- 30 Kreskin's claim
- 33 Iowa site known for its bridges
- 36 Sponsored child at a baptism
- 37 Brought back
- 38 Indigent
- 39 Amorphous mass

DOWN

- 1 Removes, as a hat
- 2 Composer Carl
- 3 In tiers
- 4 Red River city
- 5 Foolish
- 6 Jeanne —
- 7 Prompted
- 8 Rosters
- 9 Hits, biblically
- 10 Sleepwear, for short
- 12 Tale
- 14 Artist Magritte
- 15 Affirmative answer
- 16 Pigen
- 17 Wield a needle
- 18 Thou squared
- 19 Counterpart of 20-Across
- 21 Soviet labor camp
- 22 Seduce
- 23 Frisbee, e.g.
- 24 Soaks up
- 25 Beaver's construct
- 26 Fool
- 28 No liability
- 29 Temperamental
- 30 Provide funding for
- 31 Half a ticket
- 32 Eucharist vessel
- 34 Mid-March date
- 35 River of central Africa

Answer to Previous Puzzle



1-8

CRYPTOQUIP

NXB TDJWZNBO WODPOMJJBO

XMS M AMS TDZPX. ED XRE

VDOL AZSSRBE VBOB VMOYRYP

XRJ ND ENDW XMTRYP.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: NOVEL ABOUT A VERY SMALL PROVINCIAL CHURCH HAVING ONLY A SINGLE BENCH: "A ROOM WITH A PEW."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals H

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card playoffs
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS at **Indianapolis Colts**, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia 24 Sunday
San Diego at Denver
San Francisco 49ers at Carolina Panthers, 1:25 p.m.
New England Patriots at Baltimore Ravens, 1:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh Steelers at Cincinnati Bengals, 1:25 p.m.
Dallas Cowboys at New York Giants, 1:25 p.m.
Divisional playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11
New England at Seattle Seahawks
Indianapolis at New England Patriots
Sunday, Jan. 12
San Francisco at Carolina Panthers at Denver
San Francisco at Carolina Panthers at Denver

Monday's matchups
BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
CLEVELAND INDIANS vs. **Agreed to terms with RHP Scott Atchison and OF Jeff Francouer on minor league Kevin Goldstein.**
HOUSTON ASTROS - Promoted Kevin Goldstein to 40-man roster. OF David Keister, Stephanie Miller to specialist of international operations and associate counsel and Paul Puttita coordinator of baseball operations.
SEATTLE MARINERS - Agreed to terms with C Humberto Quintero on a minor league contract.
TAMPA BAY RAYS - Agreed to terms with OF James Darmory and SS Ray O'Connell on minor league contracts.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
NEW YORK METS - Agreed to terms with C Taylor Teagarden on a minor league contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES - Agreed to terms with OF Chris Dickerson on a minor league contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS - Claimed OF Rafael Furcal from the Indians.
BASKETBALL
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS - Traded C Andrew Bynum and three future draft picks to the Lakers for Dwyane Wade.
DALLAS MAVERICKS - Recalled G Ricky Ledo from the NBA D-League.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS - Recalled G Lorenzo Brown and E Elliot Williams from the NBA D-League.
FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
CINCINNATI BENGALS - Signed WR Cole Hamlin to a 4-year, \$25 million contract.
CHICAGO BEARS - Signed DE David King, CB Antonio McClellin, LB Bruce Taylor and C Scott Weidauer to reserve/future contracts.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS - Placed DE Mo'Nique Brown on injured reserve. Agreed to terms with WR Deion Branch and CB Greg Toler on injured reserve practice squad. Released DT Christian Tupou from the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS - Placed LB Brandon Spikes on injured reserve.
BAY ROUCENERS - Signed CB Marc Armbrister to a 3-year, \$10 million contract.
NEW YORK GIANTS - Signed OT Foster Cleary and Jace Daniels, DTs Evergreen Edwards and David Hunter, G Jason Ertmer, K Patrick Murray, QB Jordan Rodden, LBs Patrick Lee, Jacob Schum and WR Tommy Streeter.
HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
NHL - Suspended Buffalo D Tyler Myers for 10 games for illegal check to the head of New Jersey F Dainius Zubrus.
DALLAS STARS - Activated D Trevor Daley and Sergei Gonchar from injured reserve.
MINNESOTA WILD - Placed G Josh Harding and C Mikko Kolu on injured reserve. Recalled D Jonathan Blum and F Erik Cole from the AHL.
NEW JERSEY DEVILS - Placed F Patrick Ellis on injured reserve, retroactive to 1/1.
BAY LIGHTNING - Recalled G Cedrick Desjardins from Syracuse (AHL).
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
D.C. United - Signed D Lamar Robinson to a 3-year, \$10 million contract.
LOS ANGELES GALAXY - Named Ken Langer as head coach.
SEATTLE SOUNDERS - Signed M Nani Neagle to a contract extension.
COLLEGE
CLEMSON - Announced WR Sammy Watkins to a 4-year, \$10 million contract.
FLORIDA - Announced LB Ronald Polk to a 4-year, \$10 million contract.
NOTRE DAME - Announced DE Stephen Papp to a 4-year, \$10 million contract.
ANN ARBOR - Announced RB Storm Johnson to a 4-year, \$10 million contract.

College football
AP Top 25
The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press final college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses. Total points, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking.

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pv
1.	Florida St. (60)	12-0	1,500	1
2.	Auburn	12-2	1,428	2
3.	Michigan St.	11-2	1,375	3
4.	South Carolina	11-2	1,247	8
5.	Missouri	12-2	1,236	9
6.	Oklahoma	11-2	1,209	11
7.	Alabama	11-2	1,114	3
8.	Oregon	11-2	1,078	3
9.	Oregon	11-2	974	10
10.	Oklahoma St.	11-2	959	3
11.	Stanford	11-2	936	5
12.	Baylor	12-2	816	6
13.	LSU	10-3	717	14
14.	Baylor	10-3	717	14
15.	LSU	10-3	632	17
16.	LSU	10-3	632	17
17.	LSU	10-3	632	17
18.	LSU	10-3	632	17
19.	LSU	10-3	632	17
20.	LSU	10-3	632	17
21.	LSU	10-3	632	17
22.	LSU	10-3	632	17
23.	LSU	10-3	632	17
24.	LSU	10-3	632	17
25.	LSU	10-3	632	17

Other receiving votes: Nebraska 107, Fresno St. 17, Illinois 24, Dakota St. 17, Texas Tech 14, Utah St. 13, Iowa 13, Mississippi 10, Kansas 10, Oklahoma 10, North Texas 2, Utah State 2, T. Miss. 1, Mississippi 1.

USA Today Top 25
The USA Today Top 25 football coaches final poll, with first-place votes in parentheses. Total points, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking.

Rank	Coach	Record	Pts	Pv
1.	Florida State (59)	14-0	1,475	4
2.	Auburn	12-2	1,388	2
3.	Michigan State	13-1	1,375	4
4.	South Carolina	12-2	1,200	9
5.	Missouri	12-2	1,189	10
6.	Oklahoma	11-2	1,091	11
7.	Alabama	11-2	1,082	7
8.	Oregon	11-2	975	12
9.	Stanford	11-2	876	6
10.	Ohio State	12-2	865	15
11.	Central Florida	12-2	865	15
12.	Baylor	12-2	796	16
13.	Wisc.	12-2	796	16
14.	LSU	12-2	796	16
15.	Louisville	12-2	796	16
16.	Texas A&M	12-2	796	16
17.	Oklahoma State	10-3	587	13
18.	Texas A&M	10-3	587	13
19.	USC	10-3	587	13
20.	Arizona State	10-3	587	13
21.	Arizona	10-3	587	13
22.	Duke	10-3	587	13
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NHL — Suspended Buffalo D Ryan Smith was out for the third of his three games for an illegal check to the head of New Jersey F Dainius Zubrus during Saturday's game.

DALLAS STARS — Activated D Daley and Sergei Gonchar from reserve.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/NHL

Experienced Florida starting SEC on its way

By MARK LONG
The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida will open Southeastern Conference play right where it started the season — in the top 10.

The Gators moved up two spots to No. 10 in the latest Associated Press college basketball poll Monday. This time, coach Billy Donovan believes his team is more deserving of the lofty ranking.

When the season began, Donovan said his team — 10th at the time — was “light years away from even being ranked.” The Gators had three players suspended and a few more dealing with injuries.

Now, Florida (11-2) is close to full strength heading into Wednesday’s SEC opener against South Carolina (7-6).

Florida has won five in a row and 10 of 11, the only loss to then-No. 12 UConn at the buzzer a month ago. The Gators are 14th in the Ratings Percentage Index and 44th



PHIL SANDLIN/AP

Guard Michael Frazier II says Florida has bigger goals than the record for consecutive home wins.

very good teams. ... In a lot of ways, you can move up in the rankings based on what teams do in front of you, and if a team doesn't lose games, you are never going to move up."

It should come as no surprise that the Gators are in this position. They have four

in strength of schedule, a non-conference slate that also included Wisconsin, Florida State, Kansas, Memphis and Richmond.

"I think we're a better team," Donovan said Monday. "I don't know where we should be ranked at this point in time. I think we've played some very,

seniors in the starting lineup — a rarity for a big-time program in college basketball — and plenty of pieces around them.

And they expect to get highly touted forward Chris Walker in the mix at some point this season. Walker is practicing with the team but still waiting for the NCAA Clearinghouse to rule him eligible to play.

"He's getting frustrated because he really wants to play," forward Will Yegutete said. "You can see it in his eyes that he wants to get on the court and run around a little bit and just be out there, but he understands that it's a process. We try to tell him every day to keep on working and pray for the best, and hopefully he will be out there with us soon."

Florida is 12-5 in SEC openers under Donovan, including 8-0 at home.

If the Gators make it 9-0, they also would tie the school record of 24 consecutive home victories. The previous mark was set between 2006 and 2007, with two-time na-

tional champions Corey Brewer, Taurean Green, Al Horford and Joakim Noah doing much of the heavy lifting.

Although players said the record would be nice, guard Michael Frazier II said, "right now, we have bigger goals."

"I think maybe down the road that will be a nice thing to say we made happen," he added.

Florida does have high aspirations for the season, especially since seniors Yegutete, Casey Prather, Scottie Wilbekin and Pat Young lost in a NCAA regional final the past three years.

In their final year, they want nothing more than another shot at the Final Four. And the SEC schedule surely will help prepare them for postseason play.

"Having those four guys, they understand the league and what league play is all about," Donovan said. "We're going to need those four guys to set the stage for our team going forward."



KATHY KORMICK/AP

Peter Regin scores one of the Islanders' four second-period goals on Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen on Monday.

NHL roundup

Tavares' hat trick sparks Isles

The Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — With John Tavares and the rest of the Islanders' offense clicking, it hardly mattered who was protecting New York's net at the other end.

The Islanders captain scored three goals and added two assists, prized rookie Ryan Strome scored the first goal of his NHL career, and Kevin Poulin won in relief of injured starter Evgeni Nabokov in New York's 7-3 victory over the Dallas Stars on Monday night.

After falling behind 2-0, the Islanders carried four times in the second period and carried a 4-3 lead into the third.

"It was great, the intensity and pace we came out with in the second period," Tavares said. "Great to see not just a few guys get it going, but everyone really fed off

the energy."

Tavares scored his first at 7:29 of the second period off a terrific pass from Thomas Vanek. He added two more in the third, netting a power-play goal with 3:07 remaining to push the lead to 7-3. "A lot of people dream of those nights," Islanders coach Jack Capuano said. "Anytime [Tavares] has a night like that, it's nice to win the hockey game."

But the comeback victory came at a cost as Nabokov left with what appeared to be a groin injury. He was put on the injured list shortly after the game.

The 38-year-old goalie returned to action on Dec. 14 after he missed 11 games because of a groin injury sustained on Nov. 16.

Peter Regin, Brock Nelson, and Brian Strait also added goals for the Islanders, who scored six

times in a span of 24:38 and won for the fourth time in five games. New York won in regulation at home for the first time since Nov. 12. The Islanders were 2-6-4 in their previous 12 home games.

Blue Jackets 4, Rangers 3 (SO): Sergei Bobrovsky made 40 saves in his first action in more than a month and Brandon Dubinsky had a goal and assist against his former team in Columbus' win over host New York.

Flames 4, Avalanche 3: Jiri Hudler and Joe Colborne had a goal and assist each, and Mike Cammalleri scored a power-play goal at 16:30 of the third period to lift Calgary over host Colorado.

Canadiens 2, Panthers 1: Captain Brian Gionta scored the winner in the second period and Carey Price stopped 26 shots to lead host Montreal over Florida.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division					GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	42	28	12	2	58	124	89				
Montreal	42	25	14	3	55	114	103				
Tampa Bay	42	25	13	4	54	119	100				
Detroit	42	23	14	5	48	114	104				
Toronto	42	21	17	5	47	119	127				
Ottawa	44	19	18	7	45	126	141				
Florida	42	16	21	5	38	102	136				
Buffalo	42	12	26	4	28	74	118				
Metropolitan Division					GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	44	31	12	1	63	142	103				
Philadelphia	42	21	17	4	46	111	116				
Washington	42	20	16	6	46	128	128				
Carolina	43	18	16	9	45	105	124				
Nashville	42	17	19	6	40	108	119				
New Jersey	43	17	18	8	42	101	110				
Colorado	43	19	20	4	47	112	126				
N.Y. Islanders	44	15	22	7	37	119	146				

Western Conference

Central Division					GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	45	29	7	9	67	167	124				
St. Louis	42	29	9	4	63	150	95				
Colorado	42	26	12	4	56	123	108				
Minnesota	42	26	12	4	56	117	108				
Dallas	42	20	15	7	47	123	131				
Winnipeg	45	19	21	5	43	123	135				
Nashville	41	18	19	4	42	102	129				
Pacific Division					GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	43	27	10	6	60	142	111				
San Jose	42	26	13	4	56	113	89				
Los Angeles	44	23	13	8	54	117	108				
Vancouver	41	20	12	9	49	123	127				
Edmonton	42	21	16	5	47	111	121				
Calgary	44	16	24	5	33	117	156				

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's games
San Jose 5, Chicago 2, SO
Pittsburgh 6, Winnipeg 5
Carolina 5, Nashville 1
Edmonton 5, Tampa Bay 3
Anaheim 4, Vancouver 3, OT
N.Y. Islanders 7, Dallas 3
Columbus 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, SO
N.Y. Islanders 7, Dallas 3
Montreal 2, Florida 1
Calgary 4, Colorado 3

Tuesday's games
Philadelphia at Toronto
Carolina at New Jersey
San Jose at Nashville
Tampa Bay at Winnipeg
Calgary at Phoenix
Nashville at Edmonton
Pittsburgh at Vancouver
Boston at Anaheim
Minnesota at Los Angeles

Wednesday's games
Montreal at Philadelphia
N.Y. Rangers at Chicago
Ottawa at Colorado

Monday

Canadiens 2, Panthers 1

Florida 1 0 0-1
Montreal 1 1 0-2
First Period—1, Montreal, Deshaibes 6 (Pacioretty, Gallagher), 6:23, 2, Florida, Bergerheim 10 (Sarkar, Boyes), 17:09.
Second Period—3, Montreal, Gionta 7 (Plekaneck), 15:46.
Shots at Goal—Florida 5-6-16=27.
Montreal 13-12-10=35.
Power-play opportunities—Florida 0 of 2; Montreal 0 of 2.
Goals—Florida, T. Thomas 10-11-2 (35 shots-33 saves), 1, Montreal, Price 20-11-4 (27-26).
A—21,273 (21,273). T—2:30.

Flames 4, Avalanche 3

Calgary 1 2 1-4
Colorado 2 0 1-3
First Period—1, Calgary, Monahan 12 (Stempniak, Wideman), 1:08, 2, Colorado, MacKinnon 13 (Stastny, Benoit), 7:17 (pp.), 3, Colorado, MacKinnon 14 (Stastny, Benoit), 14:32 (pp).
Second Period—4, Calgary, Colborne 4 (Gallard, Oberg 21, 15-18, 0:02-1:36), Hudler 12 (Gordon, Backlund), 17:38.
Third Period—Colorado, Stastny 12 (Lundeskog, Hejda), 9:33, 7, Calgary, Cammalleri 13 (Hudler, Colborne), 16:30.
Shots on Goal—Calgary 4-7-8=19, Colorado 7-10-8=25.
Power-play opportunities—Calgary 1 of 3; Colorado 0 of 2.
Goals—Calgary, Ramo 7-7-3 (25 shots-22 saves), T. Giguere 7-4-0 (19-15).
A—12,027 (18,007). T—2:28.

Islanders 7, Stars 3

Dallas 2 1 0-3
N.Y. Islanders 0 4 3-7
First Period—1, Dallas, Ja Benn 15, SO, 1, Dallas, Cole 11 (Chasson, Peeverley), 13:48.
Second Period—3, N.Y. Islanders, Strome 1 (Vanek, Tavares), 1:41 (pp.), 4, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 18 (Vanek), 7:29, 5, N.Y. Islanders, Regin 2 (Bailey, Hickey), 9:25, 6, Dallas, Nicholson 9 (Devereaux, Whitney), 15:28 (pp.), 7, N.Y. Islanders, Strait 2 (Tavares, de Haan), 1:24, 9, N.Y. Islanders, Regin 3 (Bailey, Hickey), 16:19 (pp.), 10, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 20 (Bailey, Hickey), 16:53 (pp.).
Shots on Goal—Dallas 10-7-6=23, N.Y. Islanders 14-11-18=43.
Power-play opportunities—Dallas 1 of 4; N.Y. Islanders 3 of 6.
Goals—Dallas, Lehtonen 16-10-17 (43 shots-36 saves), N.Y. Islanders, Nabokov 0-7, Poulin 6-12-20 (36-36), 15-13).
A—11,111 (16,170). T—2:37.

Blue Jackets 4, Rangers 3 (SO)

Columbus 1 2 0-4
N.Y. Rangers 1 0 2 0-3
Columbus won shootout 2-0
First Period—1, Columbus, Dubinsky 8 (Horton, Wisniewski), 17:07, 2, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 6 (Zotto, Kreider), 18:07 (pp).
Second Period—3, Columbus, Atkinson 11, 1:01, 4, Columbus, Wisniewski 3 (Dubinsky, Foligno), 16:47.
Third Period—1, Columbus, Dubinsky 9 (D'More, J. Moore), 4:52, 6, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 5 (Richards, Kreider), 15:07.
Shootout—Columbus 2 (Letestu 6, Johansson 6), N.Y. Rangers 0 (Zuccarello 9G, Nash 9G).
Shots on Goal—Rangers 16-15-11=43, Columbus 16-13-16=45.
Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 3; Rangers 0 of 2.
Goals—Columbus, Bobrovsky 11-11-2 (33 shots-33 saves), 1, N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 12-16-13 (39-36).
A—18,066 (18,006). T—2:40.

Leaders

Scoring Through Jan. 6

GP	G	A	Pts
Patrick Crosby, PIT	45	23	40
Sidney Crosby, PIT	46	23	40
John Tavares, NYI	43	20	31
Eva Petrusz, ANH	41	20	28
Joe Thornton, SJ	43	5	43
Chris Kunitz, PIT	44	23	47

SPORTS BRIEFS

Clemson's Watkins to declare for NFL Draft

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Clemson's record-setting wide receiver Sammy Watkins said he's headed to the NFL.

The 6-foot-1, 205-pound junior from Fort Myers, Fla., confirmed reports that he's leaving school, saying Monday that he is entering May's NFL draft.

"After much prayerful consideration, I have decided to take the next step in pursuing my lifelong dream of playing in the NFL," Watkins said in a statement released by Clemson.

Watkins has set 23 school records in three seasons. He finished his career as the most outstanding player of the Orange Bowl. He caught 16 passes for 227 yards and two TDs in Clemson's 40-25 win over Ohio State.

Watkins is considered the top receiver prospect available and a top-15 selection in the NFL Draft.

Watkins leaves as the school's all-time leader with 240 receptions, 3,391 receiving yards and 15 games with 100 or more yards. His 27 career touchdowns tied the Clemson mark of former teammate DeAndre Hopkins, who left after his junior season last year and became a first-round draft pick of the Houston Texans.

Clemson will also be without receiver Martavis Bryant and cornerback Baushad Breeland, who announced they also will give up their final seasons for the draft.

In other college football news: ■ Central Florida quarterback Blake Bortles and running back Storm Johnson say they will forgo their senior seasons and enter the NFL Draft.

Bortles threw for more than 3,500 yards and 25 touchdowns, while completing 68 percent of his passes in leading UCF to a Fiesta Bowl win over Baylor and a No. 10 ranking. Johnson rushed for more than 1,100 yards and 14 TDs in his first year as a starter.

■ Iowa State coach Paul Rhoads announced Monday that former Kansas coach Mark Mangino has been hired as offensive coordinator. Mangino replaces Courtney Messingham, who was fired after the Cyclones finished 3-9 last season.

■ Big 12 rushing champ Lache Seastrunk is bypassing his senior season at Baylor to enter the NFL Draft. Seastrunk said in a statement Monday that he's prepared to take the next step in realizing his goal of playing in the NFL.

■ Oregon State quarterback Sean Mannion is returning for his senior season. Mannion, who has already graduated, set a Pac-12 season record for passing yards with 4,662 and threw a school-record 37 touchdowns, third-most for a season in league history.

■ Cornerback Ekpre-Okolomu

is returning to Oregon for his senior season. Ekpre-Okolomu was the Ducks' second-leading tackler with 84 stops this past season. He also had three interceptions.

■ Notre Dame defensive end Stephon Tuitt is leaving school early for the NFL. He is the second Irish defensive lineman to declare for the draft, joining nose guard Louis Nix III.

Big Ten suspends Iowa's McCaffery for 1 game

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The Big Ten has suspended Hawkeyes coach Fran McCaffery for one game and fined Iowa \$10,000 for his outburst during Sunday's loss at Wisconsin. McCaffery received back-to-back technical fouls and was ejected for arguing

with officials midway through the second half. The Big Ten said McCaffery's actions violated the league's sportsmanship policy.

Sandusky tries to get Penn St. pension back

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Jerry Sandusky described his career and retirement from Penn State by video link as testimony began Tuesday in a hearing into whether he can get back the retirement benefits he lost after being convicted of child molestation.

The proceeding at the headquarters of the State Employees' Retirement System in Harrisburg involves the pension he earned while working for decades as a Penn State assistant football coach. He lost a \$4,900-a-month

pension in October 2012, the day he was sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison for 45 counts of child sexual abuse. The decision also precluded his wife Dottie Sandusky from collecting benefits.

Grizzlies acquire G Lee in three-team trade

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Memphis Grizzlies have acquired guard Courtney Lee and have sent guard Jerry Bayless to the Boston Celtics as part of a three-team trade that also includes the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Under terms of the deal announced Tuesday, the Grizzlies get Lee and a 2016 second-round draft pick from Boston. The Celtics get Bayless and also receive forward Ryan Gomes from Okla-

homa City. The Thunder receive a conditional 2017 second-round draft pick from Memphis.

The 28-year-old Lee has averaged 7.4 points, 1.6 rebounds and 1.1 assists in 16.8 minutes per game this season. The 6-foot-5 guard is shooting 44.2 percent from three-point range.

The 6-3 Bayless averages 8.0 points, 1.9 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 21.0 minutes this season. The 25-year-old Bayless is shooting 37.7 percent.

In other NBA news:

■ The New Orleans Pelicans said forward Ryan Anderson has been diagnosed with a herniated disc and will be out indefinitely. Anderson' injury occurred in the Jan. 3 game in Boston when he collided hard with the Celtics' Gerald Wallace.





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NFL



JEFF Siner, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Carolina Panthers defensive tackle Dwan Edwards, left, sacks San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick during their 10-9 win on Nov. 10, 2013. Panthers coach Ron Rivera expects Kaepernick will have a much bigger game Saturday in their NFC divisional playoff game in Charlotte, N.C.

Panthers expect tougher Kaepernick for playoffs

BY STEVE REED
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Panthers coach Ron Rivera is expecting a few more big plays from San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick this time around.

Rivera says that Kaepernick "didn't play that well" against Carolina in a regular-season matchup on Nov. 10. The Panthers limited the third-year quarterback to 91 yards passing, 16 yards rushing and no touchdowns in a 10-9 win over the 49ers at Candlestick Park.

On Sunday, the two teams meet in the NFC divisional playoffs in Charlotte, N.C., and Rivera expects Kaepernick will be on his game — and make it that much tougher on his defense.

"I don't expect that again," Rivera said Monday. "I expect the young man to come out and play well. He's a good football player and he showed it [Sunday] night" against Green Bay.

The 49ers have won six straight games, including a 23-20 playoff win over the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field. Kaepernick threw for 223 yards and a touchdown and ran for 98 yards against the Packers.

Over the past six games, Kaepernick has elevated his play, averaging 231 yards passing per game with 11 touchdowns and three interceptions.

Rivera says the 49ers are a much better team than they played back in November.



San Francisco 49ers (13-4)
at Carolina Panthers (12-4)

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Sunday JKT

"All you have to do is watch the way he has played down the stretch," Rivera said. "We caught them at a good time and it turned out in our benefit."

Kaepernick was without wide receiver Michael Crabtree in the last meeting and tight end Vernon Davis left early in the game with a concussion.

Mario Manningham led the 49ers with 30 yards receiving in the last game against Carolina and San Francisco's longest pass play went for 14 yards. The 49ers managed just 10 first downs against Carolina and failed to get into the end zone.

"We owe them," Kaepernick said Sunday of the Panthers.

San Francisco's win over Green Bay served as a reminder of what not to do to defeating Kaepernick.

Defensive coordinator Sean McDermott pointed to a crucial moment on the final drive when the outside edge rusher lost containment and Kaepernick scooted

free for an 11-yard gain on third-and-8. Five plays later Phil Dawson kicked the winning field goal as time expired.

McDermott said his defense did a nice job of staying in their rushing lanes and keeping Kaepernick in the pocket last time around, sacking him six times.

He said that will be key on Sunday, too.

"I thought our guys played aggressive up front," McDermott said. "We played discipline. The coverage was good enough at times to get him to hold the ball."

Defensive tackle Dwan Edwards also stressed the importance of not trying to do too much outside of the scheme.

"Our defensive ends can't get too far past the quarterback or he takes off and it gives him huge lanes," Edwards said. "It's important that everyone stays in their lanes and when someone does get out of their lane we have to cover that up quickly."

McDermott said the last game against the 49ers felt like an old school NFC playoff slugfest.

But like Rivera, he's not so sure it will be such a low-scoring affair this time around.

"You just never know in the playoffs," McDermott said. "You saw the scores this past weekend. You had some halves where teams were completely shut down, and then they came out and exploded. ... I'm sure they're a better football team and I'd like to believe we're a better football team as well."

Carroll wants new attitude for Saints

By TIM BOOTH
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Before Pete Carroll turns his full attention to Seattle's playoff opponent, he'll make sure the Seahawks aren't expecting another easy win against New Orleans like in Week 13.

"We learned and gained information in the game as they did, but we start all over again and start from scratch," Carroll said Monday. "We take a look at what happened since we played them. But I think it would be a mistake to try and call it because of what has happened in the past. We don't care about that."

Carroll and the Seahawks will face New Orleans on Saturday in the second round of the playoffs less than six weeks after Seattle routed the Saints 34-7 in early December. That win proved significant for Seattle in wrapping up home-field advantage in the NFC and dropping New Orleans in a wild-card position and on the road through the playoffs.

But for all Seattle did in turning that first meeting into a blow-out, Carroll wants a new attitude by game time on Saturday.

"I think it's common knowledge and human nature that you would like to think it's going to be the same, but we know better than that," Carroll said. "We need to respect this opportunity for what it is. It's a great championship matchup for us, and they're going to come loaded up and give us a great football game."

Carroll said it was beneficial knowing their opponent Saturday night rather than waiting for the result of Sunday's game between Green Bay and San Francisco.



New Orleans Saints (12-5)
at Seattle Seahawks (13-3)

AFN-Sports
10:30 p.m. Saturday CET
6:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

He's noticed the Saints are committed to running the ball more than when the teams first played. New Orleans ran the ball 36 times in its 26-24 win over Philadelphia on Saturday, a trend over the final two weeks of the regular season. The Saints have had at least 30 rushing attempts in their past three games, after just 17 when they lost to Seattle.

"They ran it quite a bit at Philadelphia. It could have been because of the offense and the conditions and all of that," Carroll said. "We'll have to see how that figures into our game."

Seattle didn't practice until Tuesday, but one of the lingering questions is the status of wide receiver Percy Harvin and whether he'll play in his second game of the season on Saturday. Harvin's only game was in Week 11 against Minnesota. He participated in practice last week for the first time since that game and will need to make it through this week without any setbacks to play against the Saints.

Harvin was expected to play the first time, but was not able to overcome soreness around his surgically repaired hip.



DEAN RUTZ, SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman, right, puts pressure on New Orleans Saints wide receiver Robert Meacham on Dec. 2, 2013. The Seahawks routed the Saints, 34-7, but don't expect the same result on Saturday in their NFC divisional playoff game.

NFL



JOHN LEYBA, THE DENVER POST/AP

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning practices in preparation for Denver's playoff game against the Chargers.

Broncos' late losses might help in playoffs

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — A year ago, the Denver Broncos roared into the NFL playoffs riding an 11-game winning streak and promptly lost for the first time in more than three months.

So much for momentum. This year, the Broncos are again 13-3 and the AFC's top seed, two home victories away from the Super Bowl.

Only, they're far from the overconfident, sauntering unit they were at kickoff on that frigid day in Denver last January when the Baltimore Ravens outlasted them 38-15 in double overtime.

For one thing, the team they're facing on Sunday, the San Diego Chargers, beat them last month 27-20 in Denver, handing the high-scoring Broncos their only home loss of the season.

And the other teams left in the AFC playoffs also beat the Broncos this season, the Indianapolis Colts by six points in Peyton Manning's homecoming in October and the New England Patriots by a field goal in Wes Welker's return in November.

Terrell Davis, the NFL Network analyst who led the Broncos to their last Super Bowl victory after the 1998 season, said the Broncos would have been better off last year if they had lost a game or two in November and December.

"Last year, [I] just felt like they were winning games too easily and I always felt that there's something to be said about a quality loss," Davis said on a visit to Denver during training camp. "Not to say that you got out there and try to win the game, but it's a chance for the team to refocus, recalibrate, look at the things that you've been sweeping under the rug because you've been winning games."

Coming off their first Super Bowl title, the Broncos were 13-0 in '98 before back-to-back losses from mandatory practices or film sessions. It's a chance for them to get both a physical and mental



San Diego Chargers at Denver Broncos
AFN-Sports
10:30 p.m. Saturday CET
6:30 a.m. Monday JKT

break.

But Davis pointed out the downside of winning regularly: Mistakes can get glossed over and it sometimes takes a loss to make adjustments. Good teams can go months without that opportunity.

Davis actually came to appreciate the Broncos' 20-16 loss to the Giants that ended their shot at perfection in '98 because it gave them a chance to reflect, reboot and rectify.

It's something the Broncos didn't have a chance to do last year when they won their last 11 after starting out 2-3.

This season, the Broncos lost a game in October, one in November and one in December.

"Victory Mondays" in Denver nowadays consist of team captains running the film sessions instead of coaches. But after a loss, it's the coaches harping on all the mistakes.

Wide receiver Eric Decker said errors look worse through the prism of a loss, and "you start to focus on details more. Maybe you correct certain things that in a win wouldn't look so bad. You just really dissect it way differently." Losses have a way of galvanizing a team, too.

"Absolutely," Welker said. "A lot of times when you win, a lot of the mistakes get shoved under the rug and when you lose they get amplified. You really need to be on top of that stuff and not have those mistakes week to week."

Tight end Jacob Tamme said the Broncos learned plenty from their loss last month to the Chargers.

"It taught us a lesson," Tamme said on Monday. "We did kind of reboot after that and yes, I think we know that we need to play our best ball going forward."

Pats don't expect to face a generous Colts defense

New England knows Indy can be a 'disruptive group'

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — A defense that allowed 44 points in a playoff game might boost the confidence of its next opponent.

Such generosity rarely leads to wins.

But the New England Patriots aren't counting on the Indianapolis Colts being that vulnerable again.

"I hope we can find something that we can move the ball with," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Monday, "but you have to go out there and execute it and do it at a high level."

Much of the focus in the Colts' 45-44 AFC wild-card playoff win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Saturday went to quarterback Andrew Luck for directing a comeback from a 38-10 third-quarter deficit. The defense that put Indianapolis in that hole got far less attention.

In the first half, the Chiefs marched 82, 79 and 81 yards to touchdowns and 73 yards to a field goal after kickoffs or punts.

Did Belichick spot anything he could exploit when the Patriots host the Colts in a divisional-round game Saturday night?

"We might get an idea or two from that game and the other games they played before that," he said, "but we're not going to change our wholesale offense just because we saw somebody else do something. That's what [the Chiefs] do. We'll try to find things that we can do that we feel like we can attack the Colts with."

Things, perhaps, like those the Patriots did last season in a 59-24 win over Indianapolis. That tied a team record for most points scored in a game. But the Colts' defense wasn't entirely to blame. New England returned two interceptions and a punt for touchdowns.

Turnovers also plagued the Colts against the Chiefs, leading to 17 points. That was uncharacteristic of Indianapolis, which committed an NFL-low 14 turnovers in the regular season. And the Colts allowed only 186 yards in the second half after giving up 327 in the first.

"Kansas City took advantage of a few opportunities and really made some big plays in critical situations," Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said. "I think the turnovers, a few big plays here or there, can certainly change the complexion of any game and seemed to do that the other day. That being said, this is a tremendously disruptive group."

It's led by Robert Mathis, who will try to speed up Tom Brady's



AJ MASI/AP

Colts defensive end Robert Mathis looks for the ball after he knocked it away from Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith on a sack during the second half of the wild-card game last Saturday.



Indianapolis Colts at New England Patriots
AFN-Sports
2 a.m. Sunday CET
10 a.m. Sunday JKT

throws or tackle him before he can make them.

The linebacker topped the NFL with a career-high 19½ sacks and forced nine fumbles.

"He seems to be getting increasingly better as the years go on, which, as an offensive coach, you tend to hope it goes the other direction," McDaniels said. "He's as disruptive a player on the edge as we have played or will play."

Speed, acceleration, effort. Mathis has it all, McDaniels said.

"You can't ever assume that, 'Well I did enough,' because if you assume that then usually he ends up finishing the play better than you did," he added, "and a lot of times that ends up in a bad situation for the offense."

Mathis has five sacks against Brady in 12 games, the most he has against any quarterback not in the Colts' AFC South.

But he lines up in differ-

ent spots on different plays, so Brady's blockers must be sharp.

"No one's more explosive than him," Brady said Monday on his contractually obligated appearance on WEEI radio. "Once he gets to the quarterback, it's not as much sacking him, but it's the strip sacks. The fumbles and the fumble recoveries is where he's really dangerous."

Six minutes into the third quarter last Saturday, Mathis did just that against Kansas City's Alex Smith. Kelvin Sheppard recovered for the Colts and they capitalized with Luck's 3-yard scoring pass to Donald Brown. The 38-10 deficit early in the quarter was down to 38-24.

But if the Patriots keep double-teaming Mathis, they'll have one less player to block a blitz.

"It would be great to say, 'Well, why don't we just put a guy over there to help?'" McDaniels said. "They pressure enough with enough people, use the secondary, use the linebackers, that some of those people that you would like to use in help on a guy like him may have to be blocking blitzers."

Brady, though, is among the best at reading defenses. So he can throw quickly and remain upright.

"Every game you go into, you feel like you can do something," Belichick said. "I don't think we've ever played a team that we didn't feel like that."

NBA

Cavs deal Bynum to Bulls for All-Star Deng

Cleveland also gives up three future draft picks for 2012 Olympian

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Cleveland Cavaliers traded Andrew Bynum in time — and got an All-Star in return.

The Cavaliers acquired Luol Deng from the Chicago Bulls late Monday night for Bynum and three future draft picks, beating the deadline to guarantee the center's full contract for the season.

Along with Bynum, who had recently been suspended indefinitely by the Cavaliers for conduct detrimental to the team, the Cavaliers also sent the Bulls a first-round pick and two second-round picks and gave Chicago the right to swap first-round choices in 2015 if the Cavs are not in the lottery.

Deng, a member of the 2012 British Olympic basketball team, has been an All-Star the last two seasons.

He will be a free agent after this season, and with the Bulls' championship aspirations gone following Derrick Rose's season-ending knee injury, there was no reason to hold onto him and risk losing him for nothing.

Deng is averaging a career-best 19 points this season and has been a member of the NBA's All-Defensive team. He's also a former winner of the NBA's sportsmanship award, and his professionalism will be welcomed by the Cavaliers, who quickly ran out of patience with Bynum.

"Luol reflects all that we are striving for in building our team," Cavs general manager Chris Grant said. "He's a tremendous defensive player that can impact the game on both ends of the court with a team-first mentality and is a high character leader."

Bynum signed a two-year, \$24 million contract with the Cavs in July, but only \$6

million of the \$12.5 million he was scheduled to earn this season was guaranteed if he was still on Cleveland's payroll by Jan. 7.

Now the Bulls can waive him and earn that salary relief to position themselves for the future.

"The moves made today will put us in a better position to make the entire roster stronger for the future and to compete for a championship," Bulls general manager Gar Forman said in a statement.

Bynum, who won two NBA championships with the Los Angeles Lakers, averaged 8.4 points in 24 games for the Cavaliers after sitting out all last season with Philadelphia because of knee surgery.

The Cavs had reportedly been involved in talks with the Lakers for over a week about a trade involving Bynum for Spanish star Pau Gasol, but the two sides could not come to an agreement.



GEORGE BRIDGES/MCT

The Bulls traded Luol Deng, right, to the Cavaliers on Monday for Andrew Bynum and three future draft picks.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	16	10	.500	—
Brooklyn	13	21	.382	4
Boston	13	21	.382	4
Philadelphia	12	22	.353	5
New York	11	22	.333	5½
Southeast Division				
Miami	26	8	.765	—
Atlanta	18	17	.514	8½
Washington	14	17	.452	10½
Charlotte	15	20	.429	11½
Orlando	18	24	.294	16
Central Division				
Indiana	27	6	.818	—
Chicago	14	18	.438	12½
Detroit	14	20	.413	13½
Cleveland	11	23	.324	16½
Milwaukee	16	20	.444	12
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	26	8	.765	—
Houston	22	13	.629	4½
Dallas	19	15	.559	7
New Orleans	15	17	.469	10
Memphis	15	18	.455	10½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	27	7	.794	—
Portland	26	8	.765	1
Minnesota	27	5	.844	—
Denver	17	17	.495	10½
Utah	11	25	.306	17
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	24	13	.649	—
Golden State	23	13	.639	½
Phoenix	20	12	.625	1½
L.A. Lakers	14	20	.412	8½
Sacramento	10	22	.313	11½

Sunday's games	
Memphis 112, Detroit 96	
Golden State 112, Washington 96	
Indiana 82, Cleveland 78	
Miami 102, Toronto 97	
Oklahoma City 119, Boston 96	
New York 92, Dallas 80	
Denver 137, L.A. Lakers 115	
Monday's games	
Minnesota 126, Philadelphia 95	
Brooklyn 91, Atlanta 86	
L.A. Clippers 101, Orlando 81	
Tuesday's games	
Toronto at Indiana	
Philadelphia at Cleveland	
Washington at Charlotte	
Golden State at Miami	
Detroit at New York	
Phoenix at Chicago	
Golden State at Milwaukee	
San Antonio at Memphis	
L.A. Lakers at Dallas	
Boston at Denver	
Oklahoma City at Utah	
Portland at Sacramento	
Wednesday's games	
Dallas at San Antonio	
Golden State at Brooklyn	
Indiana at Atlanta	
L.A. Lakers at Houston	
Golden State at New Orleans	
Phoenix at Minnesota	
Oklahoma at Portland	
Boston at L.A. Clippers	

Calendar

Jan. 10 — Contracts guaranteed for rest of season.
Feb. 14-16 — All-Star weekend, New Orleans.

Monday Clippers 101, Magic 81

ORLANDO — Harris 19-0-0, Davis 3-9-5, Vucevich 1-7-2, Nelson 19-0-0, Affalo 5-12-2, Nicholson 0-0-0, Harkless 7-13-6, Moore 0-4-0-2, Oladipo 8-15-3-2, Lamb 3-4-0-7, Maxiell 1-3-0-2, Totals 30-84-21-81.

L.A. CLIPPERS — Dudley 3-9-0-8, Griffin 15-12-8-15, Jordan 6-10-2-14, Collison 8-11-4-21, Crawford 5-14-0-13, Jamison 3-6-3-10, Barnes 1-10-2-5, Green 4-7-0-11, Hollins 0-0-2-2, Morris 0-3-1-2, Mullen 0-1-0-0, Totals 35-83-20-81.

Orlando 18 16 21 26-81

L.A. Clippers 36 24 25 16-101

Three-Point Goals—Orlando 7-19 (Oladipo 3-4, Harkless 2-4, Lamb 1-2, Nelson 1-5, Affalo 0-1, Harris 0-1, Moore 0-2), L.A. Clippers 11-31 (Green 3-4, Crawford 3-7, Dudley 2-6, Collison 1-2, Jamison 1-4, Barnes 1-5, Griffin 0-1, Morris 0-2). Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Orlando 58 (Davis 11), L.A. Clippers 35 (Jordan 17), Assists—Orlando 15 (Oladipo 5), L.A. Clippers 30 (Crawford 8), Total Fouls—Orlando 20, L.A. Clippers 17, A-15,066 (15,060).

Nets 91, Hawks 86

ATLANTA — Carroll 4-9-2-10, Millsap 4-12-6-16, Antic 2-9-2-8, Teague 5-15-5-7, Korver 1-5-4-7, Brand 4-5-2-10, Martin 0-0-0-0, L. Williams 1-5-2-5, Mack 2-5-0-5, Scott 4-7-1-9, Totals 27-70-24-86.

BROOKLYN — Anderson 4-12-4-6, Pierce 3-9-2-9, Garnett 1-2-2-4, L. Williams 1-1-0-12, Johnson 10-22-2-22, Blatche 1-3-1-1, Kirilenko 1-3-6-10-8, Teletovic 6-11-0-16, Terry 0-5-0-0, Ev-ling 1-1-0-2, Totals 33-80-17-86.

Atlanta 21 31 15 19-86

Brooklyn 27 19 26 19-91

Three-Point Goals—Atlanta 8-24 (Millsap 2-3, Antic 2-5, Mack 1-2, Korver 1-3, L. Williams 1-4, Teague 1-5, Scott 0-1, Carroll 0-2), Brooklyn 8-27 (Teletovic 4-9, Anderson 2-5, Pierce 1-5, Johnson 1-5, Terry 0-4). Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Atlanta 45 (Brand, Korver, Carroll 7), Brooklyn 56 (Garnett 10), Assists—Atlanta 21 (Korver 6), Brooklyn 17 (Kirilenko, Johnson 6), Total Fouls—Atlanta 30, Brooklyn 25, Technicals—Atlanta Coach Budenholtz (Bryant 7), Defensive 3 seconds 5—A-15,326 (17,732).

Timberwolves 126, 76ers 95

MINNESOTA — Brewer 5-8-2-15, Rubio 7-12-10-26, Pekovic 7-15-2-16, Love 2-8-0-4, Martin 1-0-5-10, Cunningham 10-20-10, Shved 4-12-1-13, Anderson 5-6-2-12, L. Allen 0-2-0-0, Williams 2-5-4-8, Davies 1-4-0-2, Orton 2-1-1-2, Deng 1-2-0-2, Price 4-6-0-10, Totals 46-100-18-23-126.

PHILADELPHIA — Turner 5-9-3-13, Young 9-16-0-20, Hawes 3-6-0-7, Carter-Williams 6-13-0-11, Thompson 4-8-2-14, Anderson 5-6-2-12, L. Allen 0-2-0-0, Williams 2-5-4-8, Davies 1-4-0-2, Orton 2-1-1-2, Deng 1-2-0-2, Price 4-6-0-10, Totals 46-100-18-23-126.

Minnesota 32 35 35 126-95

Philadelphia 26 30 30 95-126

Three-Point Goals—Minnesota 16 (Love 4-7, Brewer 3-3, Martin 3-4, Rubio 3-4, Anderson 1-2, Young 1-2, Williams 1-3), Philadelphia 8-18 (Anderson 2-2, Young 3-4, Williams 1-3, Brown 1-3, Turner 0-1, Thompson 0-1). Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Minnesota 62 (Pekovic 10), Philadelphia 64 (Anderson 7), Assists—Minnesota 28 (Rubio 8), Philadelphia 26 (Carter-Williams 7), Total Fouls—Minnesota 14, Philadelphia 22, A-10,736 (20,328).



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

Brooklyn forward Paul Pierce, right, defends Atlanta forward Paul Millsap Monday in New York.

Roundup

Nets earn third straight win

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joe Johnson broke out of a slump with 23 points against his former team as the Brooklyn Nets beat the Atlanta Hawks 91-86 on Monday for their third straight victory.

Mirza Teletovic scored 16 points and Alan Anderson added 14 starting in place of the injured Deron Williams as the Nets moved to 2-0 on a four-game homestand that finishes with visits from Golden State on Wednesday and Miami on Friday.

Despite yet another injury to a key player, the Nets look ready to test themselves against those powerful teams after matching their three consecutive victories from Dec. 7-12.

Paul Millsap scored 16 points

for the Hawks, who lost their third in a row to equal their worst stretch of the season.

Timberwolves 126, 76ers 95: Kevin Love scored 16 of his 26 points in a dominant third quarter and Nikola Pekovic had 16 points and 14 rebounds to lead the visiting Timberwolves.

Kevin Martin scored 18 points and Corey Brewer had 15 to help the Timberwolves move back to .500 (17-17). Minnesota made 16 of 26 3-pointers.

Thaddeus Young scored 20 points for the Sixers, who saw their four-game winning streak stopped. The Sixers had won the final four games of a six-game road trip.

Clippers 101, Magic 81: Darren Collison scored 19 of his 21 points in the first half and had

seven assists in his second start at point guard since Chris Paul's injury, leading the host Clippers to a rout of the Magic.

Paul, who separated his right shoulder in Friday's win at Dallas and is expected to be sidelined for at least six weeks, sat behind the Clippers' bench in a suit and tie while Collison orchestrated the Clippers' offense without a hitch against the last-place team in the Southeast Division.

The Clippers enjoyed one of their best defensive efforts of the season, after surrendering 70 first-half points in each of their previous two games against Dallas and San Antonio.

Blake Griffin had 16 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and DeAndre Jordan added 17 rebounds and 14 points.

OLYMPICS

'Devastated' Vonn to miss Sochi Games

Four-time overall World Cup champion says latest injury has left her knee too unstable

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AND PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

Lindsey Vonn will miss the Sochi Olympics because of a right knee injury, leaving the Winter Games without one of its biggest stars.

The 29-year-old skier from Vail, Colo., announced her decision Tuesday, exactly one month before the Opening Ceremony in Russia. Her personal publicist, Lewis Kay, said in a statement Vonn will have surgery "shortly."

In a Facebook posting, Vonn said she is "devastated" to miss the Olympics, "but the reality has sunk in that my knee is just too unstable to compete at this level."

She took home two medals from the 2010 Vancouver Games, including becoming the first American woman to win an Olympic gold in the downhill. Vonn is also a four-time overall World Cup champion, the most recognized name in Alpine skiing — and, as it happens, the girlfriend of Tiger Woods.

Add it all up, and she would have been the focus of plenty of media coverage in Sochi, and certainly a main character in NBC's coverage for a U.S. audience.

But Vonn tore two ligaments in her right knee during a high-speed crash at the world championships last February, sidelining her for about 10 months. She re-tore her surgically repaired ACL in a training crash in November, a key setback. Then, after returning to competition in early December by finishing 40th, 11th and fifth in a set of World Cup races at Lake Louise, Alberta, Vonn sprained her MCL during a race at Val d'Isere, France, last month.

"I did everything I possibly could to somehow get strong enough to overcome having no ACL," Vonn said Tuesday via Facebook.

"I'm having surgery soon so that I can be ready for the World Championships at

home in Vail next February," she wrote. "On a positive note, this means there will be an additional spot so that one of my teammates can go for gold. Thank you all so much for all of the love and support. I will be cheering for all of the Olympians and especially team USA!"

Mikaela Shiffrin, the reigning world champion in slalom, and Julia Mancuso, a three-time Olympic medalist, will now be the American women with the best chance of stepping on the Alpine skiing podium in Sochi.

Shiffrin, the U.S. teenager who has been labeled the "next Vonn" by some, wrote on Twitter that it's "hard to swallow" that Vonn won't be competing in Sochi. She added she's "incredibly impressed" by Vonn's determination, calling her a "hero."

Another American ski racer, Stacey Cook, posted on Facebook: "Bummed Lindsey Vonn. Our team is not the same without you. You leave big shoes to fill for the rest of the year. ..."

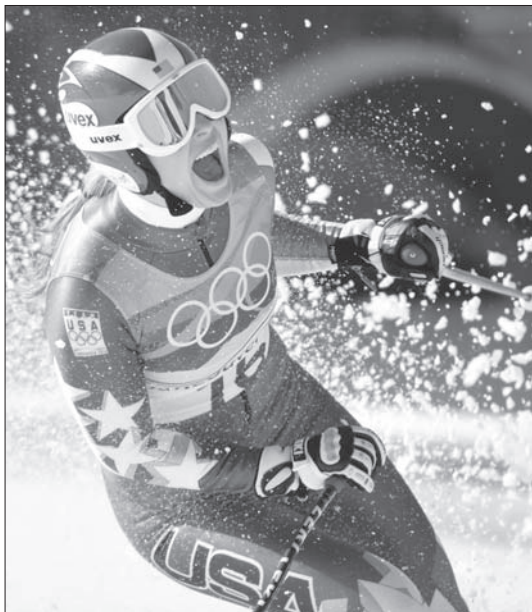
After skiing in two downhills and a super-G at Lake Louise, Vonn sounded optimistic, declaring she would be in Sochi, "fighting for my medal."

But a couple of weeks later in France, during a downhill — with Woods watching in the finish area — Vonn lost her balance, sending her left ski into the air, and forcing all her weight onto her right knee. She grimaced as she pulled up, then clutched that right knee.

Kay said Tuesday that an MRI after that episode "showed an MCL sprain, which coupled with the torn ACL, has made it impossible to stabilize her knee and be ready to safely ski again next month."

Vonn's motivation for a return, after the first procedure on her knee, clearly was Sochi. She was always a step ahead of schedule in her rehab, returning to snow about a month earlier than expected.

Now, she says her incentive is to be ready for the 2015 world championships



GERO BRELOER/AP

Lindsey Vonn, who won two medals at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, announced Tuesday that she will miss the Sochi Games after an injury to her surgically repaired knee left it "too unstable to compete at this level."

in Colorado in Vail/Beaver Creek. There's also this: Vonn needs three wins to match Austrian great Annemarie Moser-Proell's record of 62 victories in World Cup races.

"In looking ahead, I have every ounce of confidence that Lindsey will be in the starting gate next World Cup season ready to compete," said Bill Marolt, the CEO and president of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association who will step down soon after the Sochi Games. "She knows the hard work it takes to get to the top and still has significant goals to achieve in what has been an incredible career."

The Americans captured eight medals four years ago in Vancouver, their highest total at any Olympics and twice as many

as any other country. That figure may be tough to reach with Vonn sidelined and Bode Miller, who won three medals, trying to return to form after sitting out all last season with a left knee injury.

What's more, three-time Olympic medalist Julia Mancuso is struggling. Off to a poor start during pre-Olympic races, Mancuso recently headed home for a short break.

"We have a strong team that is well prepared to challenge," Marolt said. "The women's speed team is experienced with five athletes who have achieved World Cup podiums and a seasoned veteran in Julia Mancuso who has won three Olympic medals in her career. Now is the time for those athletes to step up."

Briefs

Ski officials tweak super-combi qualifying rules

The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — The International Ski Federation tweaked its Olympic qualification rules Tuesday to allow racers like Ted Ligety and some high-profile Austrians to compete in the super-combined at next month's Sochi Games.

FIS secretary general Sarah Lewis told The Associated Press that instead of requiring at least three super-combi finishes over the qualification period of this season and last, it will allow downhill races to count.

"Due to the lack of super-combined races in the qualifying period it will be super-combined and/or downhill," Lewis said,

adding that teams were being informed of the decision Tuesday.

Ligety has three downhills and one super-combi — his gold-medal performance at last season's world championships — in the qualifying period. Austrian skiers Anna Fenninger and Kathrin Zettel have also qualified under the new parameters.

However, Benjamin Raich has only two finishes in those events and Jan. 19 deadline.

Injured skiers will be dealt with separately.

Defending Olympic super-combi champion Bode Miller was injured and also doesn't have enough finishes in super-combi,

plus giant slalom and slalom — with five finishes required for the technical events.

Russia implements tighter security in Sochi

MOSCOW — Russia has begun implementing stringent security measures in its southern resort of Sochi, one month before the start of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Tens of thousands of police, security agents, rescue workers and army troops are being deployed for the Games, which run Feb. 7-23. On Tuesday, all vehicles were banned from the area except for taxis, one month before the start of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Security concerns are high because of an Islamist insurgency simmering in the nearby North Caucasus region. Fears were heightened following two suicide bombings last week in the city of Volgograd, about 400 miles away, which killed 34 people and wounded scores.

Napolitano ready to put focus on athletes

OAKLAND, Calif. — Former U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is ready for the focus of the Sochi Olympics to shift from security concerns and terrorism threats to all the athletes who will be competing.

Yet Napolitano, who is leading the U.S. delegation at the Games, fully understands the daunting task of organizing an event of this magnitude.

"Obviously, the recent bombings are a deplorable act of terrorism and are to be condemned as terrorism," Napolitano said Monday. "In terms of the security for the Games, we rely on the International Olympic Committee, we work with the (U.S.) State Department security division personnel on the ground, as well as the FBI."

For the first time since 2000, the U.S. will not send a president, former president, first lady or vice president to the Olympics.

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

BCS: This year's game ranks right up there with Texas-USC

FROM BACK PAGE

The Heisman Trophy winner led the Seminoles 80 yards in the final 79 seconds, flicking a 2-yard TD pass to Kelvin Benjamin to give No. 1 Florida State a 34-31 victory against Auburn in the last BCS championship game Monday night.

"The last drive, that's a great way to cap off our season," Winston said. "That's the way we wanted to cap off our season."

The Bowl Championship Series went out with a bang, too, with one of the best title games in its 16-year history, right there with Texas 41, USC 38 at the Rose Bowl in 2006. That night it was Vince Young leading the Longhorns and capping a comeback by scooting into the end zone with 19 seconds left.

Now Winston is the Prince of Pasadena.

Next season the BCS will be replaced by a four-team play-off. Winston and the Seminoles should be contenders again after snapping the Southeastern Conference's seven-year national title streak.

"The SEC is great football. I coached in that league for 13 years. I respect every bit of it," coach Jimbo Fisher said, "but there's some other folks in this country that can play some football, too."

Winston struggled much of the night but was near perfect when the Seminoles (14-0) needed it most, going 6-for-7 for 77 yards on the last drive.

Seminoles No. 1 in AP poll

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Move over SEC, Florida State is back on top.

Florida State finished No. 1 in the final Associated Press college football poll, ending the Southeastern Conference's record streak of seven national championships.

The Seminoles received all 60 first-place votes from the media panel after beating Auburn 34-31 in the BCS championship game on Monday night in the Rose Bowl.

Florida State's third AP national title (1993 and '99) ties it for ninth-most with rival Florida and Texas.

The Tigers (12-2) finished second in their extraordinary turnaround season, but for the first time since Texas in 2005, the Southeastern Conference is not on top of the final

rankings.

Michigan State was third, followed by South Carolina and Missouri. Oklahoma finished sixth and Alabama was No. 7. So the SEC will have to settle for having four teams in the top seven. The SEC has seven ranked teams overall with No. 14 LSU, No. 18 Texas A&M and No. 24 Vanderbilt.

No. 8 Clemson, Oregon and UCF finished out of the top 10.

No. 11 Stanford, No. 12 Ohio State and No. 13 Baylor finished outside the top 10 after spending much of the season in it.

No. 15 Louisville was followed by UCLA and Oklahoma State.

Rivals Southern California and Notre Dame were 19th and 20th, respectively.

The final five were Arizona State, Wisconsin, Duke, Vanderbilt and Washington.

nos led down the field on the final drive, with a 49-yard catch and run from Rashad Greene.

"I was ready," Winston said. "I wanted to be in that situation because that's what great quarterbacks do. That's what the Tom Bradys, Peyton Mannings, Drew Brees, that's what they do."



DAVID J. PHILLIPS/AP

Auburn's Kris Frost, right, tackles Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston during the second half of Monday's game in Pasadena, Calif. Winston finished 20-for-35 passing for 237 yards and two TDs.



GREGORY BULL/AP

Florida State's Devonta Freeman celebrates with a sign after the Seminoles beat Auburn 34-31 in the BCS championship game.

Florida State also got help from Auburn. A pass interference penalty in the end zone on Chris Davis on third-and-8 from the 10 gave Florida State a first down at the 2.

"Thought it was great defense. That's all I can say," Davis said, adding, the officials' "should have just let us play."

On the next play Winston threw high to the 6-foot-5 Benjamin for the touchdown.

"Once the ball is in the air on that post route, I've got to go get it, and I did," Benjamin said. "Simple as that."

There was no miracle finish this time for the turnaround Tigers, who went from 3-9 to SEC champions in their first season under coach Gus Malzahn. They tossed the ball around on one final play, but it ended with Florida State jumping on a fumble, and the Seminoles sprinting onto the field under a storm of garnet and gold confetti.

Florida State scored 21 points in the fourth quarter, and the teams combined for 24 in a breathtaking last 4:42.

"It felt textbook again," Auburn defensive tackle Gabe Wright said. "It really felt like we were going to bring it out again. We're just on the other end of the stick. It's usually us going out on the field and celebrating. It's been a long time since we had an 'L' in this locker room."

Auburn won nine straight to get here after starting the season unranked.

The Mason gave Auburn (12-2) a 31-27 lead with a 37-yard touchdown run with 1:19 left after Kermit Whitfield had put Florida

State in the lead for the first time since the first quarter with a 100-yard kickoff return to make it 27-24 with 4:31 left.

Mason ran for 195 yards and scored two touchdowns, and Nick Marshall threw two touchdown passes for the Tigers.

"I told them in the locker room, we put together the biggest turnaround in the history of college football. We were on the brink of making it one of those magical seasons," Malzahn said.

Florida State hadn't been challenged like this all season, winning by an average of 42 points.

Florida State and Winston's biggest problem this season came off the field. Winston was investigated for a year-old sexual assault complaint in November, but after three weeks the Florida state attorney's office determined it did not have enough evidence to charge him.

The Seminoles were down 21-3 in the first half to Auburn. They hadn't trailed in a game since Sept. 28.

"I knew we were fighters," nose tackle Timmy Jernigan said.

And now Florida State is national champion for the first time since 1999, the first team to win the BCS title game after being down at halftime. The state of Alabama's national championship run is over at four, stopped by a quarterback from Bessemer who never rooted for the Tigers or Tide.

"Only thing is we're victorious and glad to say Florida State is the national champion again, and I guarantee you we're bringing that swag back," Winston said. "You'd better believe it."

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CARLSON, LEFT, DAVID J. PHILLIP, CENTER, AND GREGORY BULL, RIGHT/AP

Florida State freshman Levonte Whitfield (7) runs back a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown late in the second half of the BCS national title game against Auburn on Monday at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. The return put Florida State in the lead as the Seminoles pulled out a 34-31 victory for their third national title and first since 1999.

Kickoff return TD sets up fantastic finish

Florida State freshman's 100-yard run propels Seminoles to third national championship

By KAREEM COPELAND
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — America, meet Kermit Whitfield.

In a game with a Heisman winner, a Heisman finalist and future NFL players on both sides, a freshman made the momentum-shifting play that helped Florida State rally for a 34-31 victory over Auburn in the final BCS championship game.

The Seminoles trailed 24-20 with less than five minutes remaining when Auburn kicked off following a 22-yard field goal.

Whitfield, one of the fastest players in the country, caught the

ball in the end zone and took off up the left seam.

Teammate Karlos Williams made a block and an Auburn player got out of his lane to open a gaping alley.

Whitfield was never touched en route to a 100-yard return that gave the Seminoles their first lead, 27-24 with 4:31 left in the fourth quarter, since going up 3-0 in the first quarter. He knew he was gone as soon as Williams sealed off the defender, allowing him to turn the corner.

"Knew nobody was going to catch me," Whitfield said. "I saw green. I saw daylight. That's all I saw. I can't really explain.

"I'm gone. You can't touch me."

Coach Jimbo Fisher actually

predicted Whitfield would score a touchdown at halftime. Coaches and players felt they were close to breaking a long one on previous kick returns.

"He said either it's going to be a set up for good yardage, or it's going to be a touchdown," Williams said. "I said, 'No, 7, what it's going to be?' He said, 'It's going to be a touchdown.'"

At 5-foot-7, Whitfield is the smallest player on the roster, but also the fastest. He ran a 10.15 100-meter dash in high school that was the third-fastest in Florida high school history.

Whitfield said he couldn't remember the last time he was caught from behind on the football field. The last time he ran a 40-yard dash he finished in

4.37 seconds — and that was untrained. He believes he's faster now.

Whitfield had only three rushes during the season, but two went for touchdowns and he averaged 36.7 yards per carry. He caught five passes for an average of 17.8 yards per reception. Whitfield added a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Wake Forest on Nov. 9.

"He's as good as anybody I've ever been around," Fisher said, "and to do it at that stage — our team blocked very well — but he has that finishing speed and I think the sky's the limit for that guy in his whole career here at Florida State."

Whitfield collapsed under the weight of celebrating teammates

when he hit the sideline.

"I had no wind in me from when I ran the touchdown," Whitfield said. "I was so tired I couldn't hold myself up."

Whitfield never expected a moment like this. He's been happy to have earned a starting job as a freshman.

Whitfield stormed to the corner of the field and jumped into the stands after the game.

"I just expect the unexpected," Whitfield. "I just go with the flow."

"I just play football." A reporter asked Whitfield about being the smallest player on the roster and making the game-changing play.

"Biggest heart," Whitfield said, tapping himself on the chest.

Mason, Marshall almost give Tigers a BCS title

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Tre Mason and Nick Marshall delivered everything but the national championship.

Auburn's potent 1-2 backfield punch came through in the clutch again Monday night, but this time it wasn't enough to prevent a 34-31 loss to No. 1 Florida State in the BCS championship game.

Mason's 37-yard touchdown run with 1:19 left gave the second-ranked Tigers (12-2) a lead that Jameis Winston & Co. wiped out with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Kelvin Benjamin with 13 seconds remaining.

A defense that had mostly held firm in big moments couldn't stop the Heisman Trophy winner and his high-powered offense at the end. That left Mason with an empty feeling after Auburn failed to bring home the title for its fans.

"I feel like I let them down," said Mason, a Heisman finalist

who ran 34 times for 195 yards in his sixth straight 100-yard game.

He pinballed off defensive back Jalen Ramsey downfield for his 23rd rushing touchdown of the season and helped the Tigers become the first SEC team to lead the nation in rushing. They fell seconds short of the state of Alabama's fifth straight national crown and the SEC's eighth in a row.

Mason, who said he would speak with family before deciding whether to leave Auburn early and enter the NFL Draft, broke Bo Jackson's school record of 1,786 yards rushing set during his 1985 Heisman season. Mason finished with 1,816 yards.

"It would be a lot better if I was holding up that crystal ball," he said.

The Southeastern Conference's leading rusher did come up huge on another big stage. He helped power the Tigers into the game with 46 carries for 304 yards against Missouri to capture the SEC championship and gained 164 yards against rival Alabama.

Those two performances propelled him to New York for the Heisman ceremony, where he finished sixth.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Tre Mason's touchdown gave Auburn the lead with 1:19 left in the game, but Florida State rallied for a 34-31 victory to win the BCS national championship on Monday at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. Mason finished the game with 195 yards for 33 carries.

Mason and Marshall were integral parts of a season that matched the biggest turnaround in college football history after a 3-9 debacle in 2012.

Marshall threw for 217 yards and two touchdowns with an interception Monday night. He also ran for 45 yards and a third score,

but found little running room.

"That's the way teams are going to play us. They have to pick one of us to stop," Mason said. "He's very dangerous on his feet. I guess they chose to stop him."

Marshall had deftly operated Auburn's zone read and the nation's top rushing attack after

a midseason switch in offensive philosophy to capitalize on his strengths. The junior college transfer didn't arrive on campus until the summer to start mastering coach Gus Malzahn's no-huddle offense, but learned as he went along.

Not known for his passing, Marshall held his own against Winston. The Auburn quarterback completed 14 of 27 passes and ran 16 times.

It wasn't a perfect performance. He underthrew a wide-open Ricardo Louis downfield in the first quarter and the star of the improbable win over Georgia couldn't pull it in.

Before the disappointing finish, Auburn beat Georgia and Alabama on two of the most memorable plays of the season, and then overwhelmed Missouri in the SEC title game. The Tigers' script just didn't include a fairy-tale ending.

"It's always going to be remembered, but it's always going to eat me up inside that we had beaten some of the top teams in the nation and fell short at the very end," Mason said. "It's pretty much like a book that was written. It was a crazy story."

SPORTS

Out of Olympics

Vonn withdraws from Sochi Games because of knee injury | **Page 29**

Big finish

FSU captures final BCS championship on last-minute TD

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

APASADENA, Calif. After a regular season filled with blow-out victories and easy fourth quarters, Jameis Winston and Florida State showed they could close like champions, too.

No. 2 Auburn wobbled the top-ranked Seminoles by jumping out to an 18-point lead in the first half, and then put Florida State on the brink of defeat for the first time this season.

Winston responded with the drive of his life and a game-winning touchdown pass with 13 seconds left that topped everything else he has done in one of the most sensational debut seasons a college quarterback has ever had.

SEE BCS ON PAGE 30

Inside:

- Kickoff return shifts momentum in Seminoles' comeback victory, Page 31
- Marshall, Mason deliver everything but national title for Auburn, Page 31



GREGORY BULL, ABOVE, AND DAVID J. PHILLIP, LEFT/AP

Above: Florida State's Kelvin Benjamin catches the game-winning touchdown pass in front of Auburn's Chris Davis with 13 seconds remaining Monday in the BCS championship game in Pasadena, Calif. The touchdown gave Florida State a 34-31 victory. Left: Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston holds the crystal ball after the Seminoles received the Coaches Trophy.



Cavaliers trade Bynum to Bulls for Deng
NBA, Page 28

Tavares scores hat trick in Islanders' win
NHL, Page 24

